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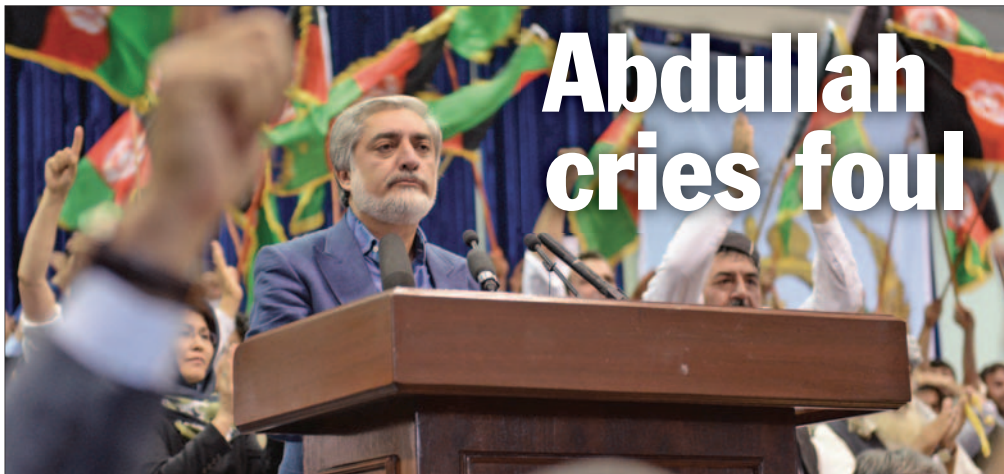
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JOHN SMITH/Stars and Stripes

Afghan presidential candidate Abdullah Abdullah pauses during a speech to supporters at a meeting in Kabul, Afghanistan, on Tuesday. Abdullah told his backers that he rejects the results of the election, claiming massive fraud was responsible for preliminary results that put his rival, Ashraf Ghani, in the lead.

Abdullah cries foul

BY JOSH SMITH
AND ZUBAIR BABAKARKHAIL
Stars and Stripes

U.S. Secretary of Defense Chuck Hagel and Chairman of the Joint Chiefs Gen. Martin Dempsey briefed the Senate on Tuesday about the continuing dispute over Afghanistan's presidential election, as candidate

Abdullah Abdullah sounded a defiant note in Kabul by saying he wouldn't accept preliminary results of the vote.

A former foreign minister and previous presidential contender, Abdullah is trailing opponent Ashraf Ghani, 56 to 43 percent.

Abdullah's camp charges that a "triangle of fraud" — President Hamid Karzai, the election commission

and Ghani — conspired to rig the election.

Rising tensions over the vote come as NATO prepares to pull the bulk of its combat troops from Afghanistan. Earlier Tuesday, four troops with NATO's International Security Assistance Force were killed along with 12 Afghan police and civilians in a suicide attack.

SEE RESULTS ON PAGE 3

Military withholds names of 3 tattoo shops possibly linked to infections

BY JAMES KIMBER
AND MATTHEW M. BURKE
Stars and Stripes

TOKYO—U.S. military officials won't name the tattoo shops whose unsanitary conditions likely sent a handful of U.S. troops to the emergency room recently, despite a potential public health risk. Officials said Monday that singling out one business could give the wrong impression that other tattoo parlors are safe. Officials at U.S. Naval Hospital Oki-

nawa gave the names of three shops to local government officials on July 3 for their possible role in last month's surge of tattoo-related skin infections that landed five servicemembers in the hospital.

But Okinawa Prefectural Government officials said the names of those shops — in Chatan and Nago — will be withheld from the public as U.S. military officials investigate.

SEE SHOPS ON PAGE 4



TATTOOING: KNOW BEFORE YOU GO

According to the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention National Institute for Occupational Safety and Health, there has never been a documented case of HIV or hepatitis C transmission from sanitary tattooing or body piercing. However, unregulated tattooing and piercing, like in Japan, may lead to exposure to these diseases. The CDC advises that people wanting a tattoo or piercing should go to a professional and licensed shop.

QUESTIONS TO ASK

- ❗ Is the equipment sterilized? Some tools and equipment can be reused. Reusable tools and equipment should be cleaned and sterilized to remove viruses and bacteria.
- ❗ Are single-use disposable

needles and razors used?

- ❗ Disposable piercing needles, tattoo needles and razors should be used on one person and then thrown away. Reusing needles or razors is not safe.
- ❗ Has the tattoo ink been used on other people? Shared ink is not safe.

QUOTE OF THE DAY

"A crew to me is a family. They are going to be there for me like my parents was never there for me."

— Jamal Williams, 18, a high school junior in New York City who said he's been affiliated with crews and gangs since he was 9, although he's trying to turn his life around

See story on Page 14

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5. "Nobody was that crazy": Documents show soldiers called Robert Bales 'paranoid' well before killings

COMING SOON

Video games

Lack of leading ladies haunts gaming industry



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MILITARY

Marines, sailors taking long way

New amphibious assault ship to reach San Diego via Cape Horn

By JENNIFER HLAID
Stars and Stripes

CAMP PENDLETON, Calif. — The departure was like most other Marine deployments — with camouflage-clad young men and women tagging giant sea bags, smoking and texting loved ones in a dark parking lot as they waited to board a bus for the airport. But there weren't many tears or hand-lettered signs at this send-off.

The 70 Marines and sailors who left Camp Pendleton on Monday night were headed to Mississippi, where they will join nearly 200 more members of Special Purpose Marine Air Ground Task Force-South to board the Navy's newest ship for a two-month trip around South America.

The ship, to be christened the USS America, will be the first America-Class amphibious assault ship for the Navy.

The LHA-6 will replace the USS Peleliu as the flagship of an expeditionary strike group and will carry a Marine expeditionary unit. While other MEUs typically used amphibious landing craft and aircraft to go ashore, the future USS America was designed with no well deck, which means extra room for the F-35B joint strike fighter and MV-22 Osprey and aviation fuel, but no place for amphibious assault ve-



LAWRENCE GROVE/Courtesy of the U.S. Navy

The amphibious assault ship soon to be christened the USS America returns to Pascagoula, Miss., after completing sea trials last year. Nearly 300 San Diego-area Marines and sailors are headed to Mississippi to board the America and ride around South America before heading back to San Diego.

hicles and other landing craft.

First, the ship must get to its homeport in San Diego and, Marines said, it is too large to go through the Panama Canal.

Lt. Col. George Hasseltine, the commander of SPMAGTF-South, said the unit's primary mission is to support the ship's safe transit from the shipyard to San Diego. Along the way, the Marines will stop in several Central and South American countries for training exercises and other engage-

ments with militaries in partner nations.

Hasseltine said the unit's Marines will share martial arts training, shooting skills, first aid, communications, tactical decision making and other skills with the partner nations — many of whom have well-established militaries with decades of experience fighting terrorism.

While most Marine units go through six to eight months of training before a deployment, SPMAGTF-South didn't even exist six months ago. The unit came together in about three months, with some Marines learning just a few weeks ago that they'd be deploying.

First Lt. Krysta Porter Lott, the unit's adjutant, checked into the unit June 9 and said they were pulling new people into the command element until just days before departure.

Roughly 70 percent of the unit's command element, including Hasseltine, came from the Pendleton-based 1st Reconnaissance Battalion. Marines from Combat

Logistics Battalion 13 make up the logistics element, 1st Light Armored Reconnaissance Battalion is the ground combat element and a handful of Ospreys and support Marines from a North Carolina-based unit will be the aviation element.

The way the unit came together so quickly was "really crazy but really pretty awesome," Porter Lott said.

Cpl. Nicholas Pietrowiak, Lance Cpl. Michael Baldi and Lance Cpl. Francisco Polin all said they were excited to get the chance to go on the new ship and see South America.

"We're getting the sweetest deal," Baldi said. "A lot of people were fighting for this."

Hasseltine said he is not concerned that the unit did not have the typical pre-deployment work-up period.

"Marines are very flexible," he said. "That's kind of what we do: come together on short notice and deploy."

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Clarification

A July 3 story about World War II remains being disinterred from graves in the Philippines should have stated the Armed Forces DNA Identification Laboratory uses both nuclear and mitochondrial DNA methods to test remains of U.S. servicemen. Samples of remains are sent to the AFDIL by the Joint POW/MIA Accounting Command. Scientists at the AFDIL then decide, based on a variety of factors, which test or combination of tests provides the best chances of acquiring a DNA identification. Stars and Stripes did not contact the AFDIL for the story.

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MILITARY



MASSOUD HOSSAIN/AP

Supporters of Afghan presidential candidate Abdullah Abdullah shout in support of him during his speech to supporters in Kabul, Afghanistan, on Tuesday.

Results: Abdullah hints at formation of parallel government as Kerry warns of consequences

FROM FRONT PAGE

In Washington, top lawmakers on the Senate Armed Forces Committee said they were optimistic that an audit of disputed ballots would settle allegations of fraud and result in a new president.

Abdullah addressed screaming supporters in his first public statement since the results were announced Monday, saying he would sacrifice himself rather than accept a fraudulent outcome.

"We must reject and will never ever accept the results that have been announced yesterday in the result of fraud," he said. "Without any doubt or suspicion, we are the winners."

Chanting "Death to Karzai," a handful of Abdullah supporters tore down a large picture of the current president, stomped on it and raised a poster of Abdullah in its place before the candidate arrived.

Abdullah chided the audience and said he was saddened by such actions, but the crowd continued to shout phrases like "Death to the election commission" and "Death to Ashraf Ghani." At one point supporters shouted, "Our path is jihad."

Mohammad Kazim, 37, an Abdullah supporter who attended the rally, said: "We should have been invited to a weapons depot rather than here. We are ready to fight to save our clean votes."

Ghani, who came in second during the first round of voting on April 5 but now leads the vote tally, said both candidates have a responsibility to unite Afghanistan and not spark a crisis. He denied any role in possible fraud

and said he was not afraid of what an audit might reveal.

"We welcome every effort that brings more transparency to the results," he told reporters Tuesday evening. "We welcome any organization that wants to help address the complaints. We hope that there is a convincing solution to the complaints."

In a statement on Monday, Secretary of State John Kerry criticized the idea that Abdullah could call for a parallel government.

"The United States expects Afghan electoral institutions to conduct a full and thorough review of all reasonable allegations of irregularities," said Kerry, who Abdullah said would visit Afghanistan on Friday. "At the same time, there is no justifiable recourse to violence or threats of violence, or for resort to extra-constitutional measures or threats of the same. Any action to take power by extra-legal means will cost Afghanistan the financial and security support of the United States and the international community."

Abdullah said he was yet to decide whether to form some kind of parallel government, but that he would in the next few days.

"Our people have been waiting for so long for us to announce our government," he said. "We will announce our government very soon."

In recent days many foreign officials have weighed in — including several U.S. senators, the American ambassador and United Nations authorities — in a bid to salvage the legitimacy of an election that the West sees as key to a stable Afghanistan.

Abdullah said he spoke by phone on Tuesday morning with Kerry and President Barack Obama. Obama and Kerry said the U.S. favors transparency and an audit of any disputed ballots, Abdullah said.

Sen. Carl Levin, D-Mich., chairman of the Armed Forces Committee, said both presidential candidates have agreed to the audit, which bodes well for the future of the country. Levin just returned from a visit to Afghanistan.

"As long as both candidates want an audit — and I believe they both genuinely do — then it will come out OK," he said. "The only question comes down to how many millions of ballots will be reviewed or audited. There has been no declared winner by the only entity that can declare a winner, which is the elections commission."

Sen. John McCain, R-Ariz., the ranking committee member, said he also met with both presidential candidates during a trip to Afghanistan last week.

"They are both good people, as opposed to the situation in Iraq, and I am guardedly optimistic they will get it solved," McCain said.

However, he gave a job to the Obama administration and its plans to withdrawal combat forces at the end of the year, saying the Afghan people feel abandoned and do not have the power to fight off the Taliban.

Stripes reporter Travis J. Tritten contributed to this report. smith.josh@stripes.com Twitter: @joshnsmith

statement said.

The statement by the International Security Assistance Force did not specify the nationality of the victims, but media in the Czech Republic reported that four Czech troops died in a suicide attack Tuesday.

Two Afghan police officers and

10 civilians also died in the attack, and one Czech soldier was badly injured, according to the Czech news website iDNES.cz.

According to the ISAF's latest statistics, 250 Czech troops are serving in the international force.

From staff reports

Trial starts in Ventura lawsuit over sniper book

By AMY FORLITI
The Associated Press

MINNEAPOLIS — A jury was set to hear opening statements Tuesday in Jesse Ventura's defamation case against the estate of a slain sniper who had claimed he punched the former Minnesota governor and professional wrestler inside a bar.

After only about two hours of questioning from the judge, the four-woman, six-man jury was seated to hear the trial pitting Ventura against the widow of "American Sniper" author Chris Kyle.

When the man regarded as the deadliest sniper in U.S. history detailed his kills in his bestselling autobiography, he also included details about a 2006 incident in which he says he punched a guy he called "Scruff Face" — later identified as Ventura.

Ventura, a public figure with a tough-guy image, says the fight didn't happen, and he sued for defamation. During the trial it will be up to Ventura's attorneys to prove that Kyle's account about that night in a California bar was false — and, even more difficult, that Kyle knew it.

"Ventura is going to have to prove falsity — but the harder part is proving actual malice," said Raleigh Levine, a law professor at William Mitchell College of Law in St. Paul. "It has to do with what you know about the truth — that you actually knew that what you were saying was false or that you recklessly disregarded the truth."

Besides sorting out what happened in the bar, jurors will have to assess whether Ventura's reputation was damaged and whether Kyle used Ventura's name to make a profit.

Kyle and a friend were killed in February 2013 at a Texas gun range, allegedly by an Iraq War veteran they were trying to help. Kyle's widow, Taya Kyle, is now the defendant.

Big money may be at stake. Court documents show Kyle's book had earned royalties of more than \$3 million as of June 30, 2013, and the judge already has ruled that the proceedings in an upcoming movie could be subject to damages, too.

Ventura has said the case isn't about money.

"It's about clearing my name. It's a lie," Ventura told The Associated Press in February.

Ventura and Taya Kyle are both expected to testify during the trial, which will likely last more than two weeks.

Ventura, a former Navy SEAL and pro wrestler whose post-political life has included hosting several cable TV shows, claims

Kyle defamed him to gain notoriety for his best-selling 2012 book, which describes his kills of insurgents from 1999 to 2009. A movie based on the book, starring Bradley Cooper, is in production.

In the book, Kyle describes an incident in which he claims Ventura was speaking loudly against President George W. Bush, the Iraq War and Navy SEAL tactics. Kyle, also a former Navy SEAL, claimed Ventura said the SEALs "deserve to lose a few." Kyle wrote that he punched Ventura, knocking him to the ground.

Ventura denies making those statements, and says Kyle never laid a hand on him. Kyle had



Ventura

maintained the events in the book are true, and the essence of what was said is accurate, court documents say.

Both sides have witnesses to back up their version of events; and attorneys have cast doubt on the opposing witnesses' credibility. While Kyle's book says "rumor has it" Ventura had a black eye the next day, photos of Ventura from that time don't show him with any visible injury, according to court documents.

In March, U.S. District Judge Richard Kyle — no relation to Chris Kyle — said the case could go forward because Ventura had offered sufficient evidence that could lead a jury to conclude Kyle's statements were false.

But because Ventura is a public figure, the judge wrote, Ventura must show "actual malice" or prove by clear and convincing evidence that Kyle knew the statements were false or acted in reckless disregard of the truth.

Levine said Ventura has a high bar to clear; and to win damages, he must also prove his reputation was harmed in a quantifiable way.

In a November deposition, Ventura said his job offers dried up after the book was published, and he was worried about being seen as a traitor to the military. He also said publicity Kyle got from interviews about the alleged incident with Ventura helped Kyle's book sales and led to the film option.

The defense argues in court documents that the public embraced Kyle's book for reasons "completely unrelated to any passing reference to Ventura," and that the book has been more successful than any Ventura has written.

MILITARY

Vet sues after burial with gay partner denied

By REBECCA BOONE
The Associated Press

BOISE, Idaho — A U.S. Navy veteran filed a civil rights lawsuit Monday after the Idaho State Veterans Cemetery refused to allow her to be buried with the ashes of her late wife.

Madelynn Taylor, 74, filed the lawsuit in U.S. District Court in Boise after she tried to make advance arrangements last year to have her ashes interred with Jean Mixner, whom she met on a blind date in 1995 and married in California in 2008 when gay marriage was briefly legal.

Though federal veterans cemeteries allow the spouses of gay veterans to be interred with their loved ones, Taylor said she was surprised to find the Idaho cemetery — which is owned and operated by the state — does not.

Taylor's situation is "among the most extreme examples of the harm caused by state laws that deny respect to the marriages of same-sex couples," said Christopher Stoll, a senior attorney with the National Center for Lesbian Rights, which is representing

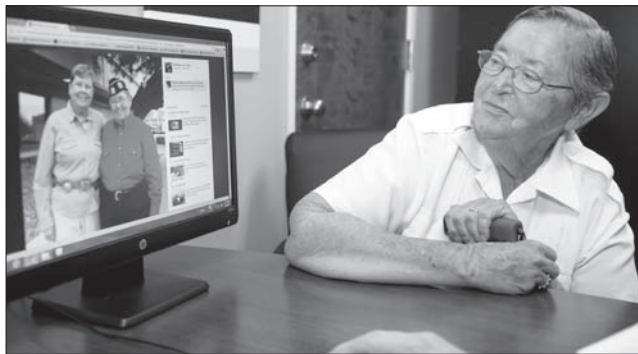
Taylor. "Denying these important protections to committed couples is not simply unjust. It is needlessly cruel."

Todd Dvorak, a spokesman for Idaho Attorney General Lawrence Wasden, said Wasden hasn't reviewed the lawsuit and couldn't comment on the case. Idaho Gov. C.L. "Butch" Otter's spokesman, Jon Hanian, also declined to comment.

Taylor's lawsuit contends that Idaho's anti-recognition laws violate the due process and equal protection guarantees of the U.S. Constitution, and that Idaho's refusal to recognize her marriage tells the world that her relationship is unworthy of recognition.

Taylor wants a judge to order the cemetery to allow her ashes to be interred in a memorial wall along with those of Mixner, who died in 2012.

The case was filed as Taylor's health is deteriorating. She has serious heart and lung problems and uses a cane, walker or scooter to get around. She laughs easily at her predicament, though, joking that she expects to win the case before she has the heart attack



Otto KITSINGER/AP

Madelynn Taylor looks Monday at a 2011 photo of herself, right, and her wife, Jean Mixner.

that "could happen any day now." Her ready laughter may have been what attracted Mixner when the two met on a blind date in 1995.

Taylor, for her part, was captivated by Mixner's blue eyes. The two hit it off, and it wasn't long before Mixner moved in with Taylor in Nampa, Idaho. They soon married in a religious ceremony during a church retreat in Oregon.

They filled their days with work, church and volunteering — Taylor as an emergency medical technician and Mixner running a support group at their home for transgender people. They bought a home and remodeled it together.

"I taught her how to use power tools, and she taught me how not to cuss when I hit my thumb," Taylor joked. "She turned out

'Denying these important protections to committed couples is not simply unjust. It is needlessly cruel.'

Christopher Stoll
National Center for
Lesbian Rights

to be the queen of mud and tape — she could do a wall up

They took care of aging relatives, and they retired at the usual age, traveling from campsite to campsite in a

be legally binding.

When Mixner got emphysema, they made a promise: Whoever went first would be cremated and later buried with the other.

"Whoever one went first is supposed to wait by the eastern gate," said Taylor, glancing up at the beige ceiling of her attorney's conference room. "So she'll be up there by the eastern gate waiting for me now."

They chose the veterans cemetery because they knew it would be well maintained and decided on cremation and interment in a wall so their names and spot wouldn't get covered over with weeds or grass.

They wanted to be in Idaho, where their family could come to pay respects.

33-foot RV. When the California ban on gay marriage was struck down in 2008, they had a civil ceremony so their marriage would

Shops: Servicemembers say names of tattoo shops should be revealed

FROM FRONT PAGE

The Okinawa government will "launch an investigation of the tattoo shops in question on their own at the earliest possible time," officials said.

That's not enough for some. "They should come out with the name so people don't get sick," Air Force spouse Terri Hochstein said.

Since the shops have not been publicly identified, none has been declared off-limits to base personnel. There are no tattoo establishments off-limits in Okinawa or Japan — even though a tattoo artist operating without a medical license in Japan is violating the law.

"There is no license or permission for tattoo businesses in Japan," said Hiroaki Arakaki, spokesman for the Health Care Policy Division of the Medical Department of the Okinawa Prefectural Government. "If we can confirm that the subject shops engage in tattooing, the government will instruct the shops to stop the illegal conduct," he said.

While it is regulated by the U.S. military, getting a tattoo is not a violation of the Uniform Code of Military Justice.

"If we posted a list of tattoo

parlors that were linked to infections, it would imply that establishments not on the list were safe and tacitly endorsed by the hospital," Navy hospital officials said in a written response.

The officials pointed out that all businesses of this type are unregulated and recommended that U.S. troops and other Defense Department personnel avoid tattoo parlors completely while stationed outside the U.S.

"Servicemembers receive briefs about health concerns and tattoo safety which instruct them about the risks of getting tattoos and what measures to take in ensuring that the tattoo establishment they have chosen abides by the necessary health standards," 1st Lt. Noah Rappapah, a spokesman for the 3rd Marine Expeditionary Force in Okina-

wa, said in an email to Stars and Stripes. He added that a "public health announcement regarding tattoo safety was pushed out to all commands within III MEF and is readily available online for all servicemembers and their families stationed in Okinawa."

Naval Hospital Okinawa issued the warning to servicemembers that Japanese tattoo establishments are not regulated nor inspected under Japanese law.

"I would not recommend getting a tattoo, but if personnel choose to, they should do some careful research before selecting a tattoo facility," Lt. Cmdr. Marion Gregg, director of public health at the Okinawa hospital, said last week in a news release.

"Take a close look at the facility for cleanliness and observe the artist at work to make sure that the tattooing process is as safe and sterile as possible. And don't be afraid to ask questions."

The warning did not keep servicemembers and their families out of the tattoo shops over the Fourth of July weekend.

Inside the bevy of shops outside Camp Foster's front gate, there was barely a free seat in any waiting room. Everyone waiting to get

inked up said they were aware of the risks but were going by word of mouth, past experience and the recommendations of friends.

"This is the only place I go," Hochstein said as she exited one shop with a fresh, elaborately detailed bird and cage on her upper thigh.

Airman Johnattan Hutchinson, 22, of Puerto Rico, said he was scared when he heard about the warning, but he has a history with his tattoo shop and trusts their procedures. He was in to get color added to a spider/skull tattoo on the back of his calf.

Tattoo shop owners and employees said they were making an extra effort to tell customers about their safety procedures.

According to the base hospital in Okinawa, all five of the recent infections were easily treatable and no servicemember contracted hepatitis C or any of the other potential life-altering diseases associated with unsanitary needles.

However, the local Marines, family members, base civilians and tattoo shop employees who Stars and Stripes interviewed said the shop responsible for the scare needs to be identified and shut down.

"Those rumors don't help anybody," Hutchinson said.

Stars and Stripes reporter Chiyoung Sumida contributed to this report. kimber.james@stripes.com @james_kimber burke.matt@stripes.com

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MILITARY

VA rejects bid to broaden illness coverage

By KELLY S. KENNEDY
USA Today

WASHINGTON — The Department of Veterans Affairs has rejected a request from members of Congress and veterans advocates to make brain cancer, lung cancer and migraines presumptive conditions for Gulf War veterans. Officials said they cannot prove the high rate of those illnesses among Gulf War vets are related to military service.

VA officials said the number of brain cancer deaths for troops exposed to sarin gas was too low to be conclusive, though it was double the rate of troops not exposed.

The rate of lung cancer deaths, though 15 percent higher than those who did not serve in the 1991 Gulf War, is "inconclusive"

because researchers did not know how many of the servicemen's smoke.

"I'm disappointed with their decision, but hold out hope that further studies will convince the VA," Rep. Timothy Walz, D-Minn., told USA Today.

If a veteran is diagnosed with a presumptive condition, Veterans Affairs is required to assume that it is military-connected, and that the veteran is entitled to medical or disability benefits associated with the diagnosis.

Those exposed to smoke after oil wells were set on fire in Iraq, as well as to sarin gas after the U.S. bombed a munitions plant in Khamisiyah, Iraq, saw an increased risk of brain cancer, according to a study Rep. Mike

Coffman, R-Colo., and Walz cited in letters to former VA secretary Eric Shinseki in March.

As many as 100,000 troops may have been exposed to sarin, a nerve agent, according to the Defense Department, but a recent study shows more may have been affected.

Gulf War vets also saw a "significant relative excess" of lung cancer, according to a second study. A third study showed that veterans with chronic fatigue syndrome or Gulf War Illness were likely to also suffer migraines, the lawmakers wrote.

"I am very interested in your opinion of whether the studies enclosed are sufficient to add these three health problems to the list of presumptions related to Gulf

War Illness," Coffman wrote in March. "If you believe they are not, please detail the VA's current and planned efforts related to these three problems."

Robert Jesse, the VA's acting undersecretary for health, turned down the request, saying the Institute of Medicine found "inadequate and insufficient evidence" for an association between Gulf War service and the diseases.

"IOM stated that there 'is no consistent evidence of a higher overall incidence of cancer in veterans who were deployed to the Gulf War than in non-deployed veterans,'" Jesse wrote in a letter to Walz.

Ron Brown, president of the National Gulf War Resource Center, said the official response flies in

the face of VA's own research.

"What they've done is used the overall population of deployed veterans during Desert Storm," he said. "If you use the whole population, it does not show an increase of cancers, but if you look at Khamisiyah, there are significant increases of cancers."

A 2007 Institute of Medicine study found that, though the number of cases was small, the brain cancer death rate for servicemen in the sarin-gas exposure zone was twice as high as for servicemen outside it, according to the American Journal of Public Health. For unexposed soldiers, the brain cancer death rate from 1991 to 2000 was 12 per 100,000. For those near Khamisiyah, the rate was 25 per 100,000.

Vet claims wrongful firing over his PTSD

By JEFF ARNOLD

(Fort Smith, Ark.) Times Record

FORT SMITH, Ark. — The U.S. Department of Agriculture has until Aug. 5 to respond to a court filing by a former employee the department's own administration says was wrongly terminated.

In August 2011, Jason Nelson, of Waldron, worked as a food inspector at a poultry processing plant in Noel, Mo. He filed a complaint with the USDA Office of the Assistant Secretary for Civil Rights, alleging the department discriminated against him based on post-traumatic stress disorder and traumatic brain injury suffered during his military service in Operation Iraqi Freedom.

He alleges the department refused to transfer him to a duty station closer to his home in Waldron as a reasonable accommodation for his disability, placed him on administrative leave because of his disability and ultimately forced him to resign because of his disability.

In Sept. 27, 2012, Joe Leonard, USDA assistant secretary for Civil Rights, issued an opinion rejecting the first two claims but sustaining Nelson's claim his termination resulted from discrimination based on a disability.

Nelson's supervisors allowed him to resign instead of being fired in July 2011, based on the department's determination Nelson posed a "significant risk of substantial harm to the health or safety of the individual or others that cannot be eliminated or reduced by reasonable accommodation," according to Leonard's report.

Nelson's supervisors based the determination on three statements made during an April 2011 mediation regarding his transfer request, when Nelson commented that "I was a soldier and I killed people (in Iraq)," he has suicidal and homicidal thoughts when de-

pressed and his family knew not to touch him before addressing him because his combat experience left him jittery and he "sometimes struck them."

Nelson argued the first two statements were taken out of context, noting the comment about killing people in Iraq came when he and a supervisor discussed how their respective disabilities cause depression, and Nelson was trying to illustrate the difficulty of the circumstances he faced in Iraq. With regard to the homicidal and suicidal thoughts, Nelson said he was referring to how he felt when he returned from Iraq in 2005, according to the report.

Leonard's report acknowledged Nelson's statements about the "bleak aspect" of his service in Iraq raises concerns, but instead of seeking an assessment and opinion from a qualified psychiatric medical professional on whether Nelson posed an imminent threat to himself or co-workers, a supervisor who was aware of Nelson's PTSD instead began to ostracize him in an effort to force his resignation.

The report also noted that the most recent assessment of Nelson's condition before his forced resignation, stated "he is considered employable and his prognosis with continued treatment is very good."

Leonard directed the department to compensate Nelson for past pecuniary loss, future pecuniary loss and nonpecuniary loss. Pecuniary loss is loss that can be quantified in monetary terms, while nonpecuniary — for example pain and suffering — cannot be quantified.

Nelson submitted a claim for \$19,562 in past loss wages, \$211,976 in future lost earnings and \$2.5 million for pain and suffering caused by his unlawful discharge.

The USDA did not respond to calls for comment.



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NATION

14 killed, dozens hurt in Chicago shootings

By DON BABWIN
The Associated Press

CHICAGO — Extra police officers on Chicago's streets were not enough to quell a long weekend of violence that ended with 14 people shot to death and dozens more injured.

During a Monday news conference, just hours after two more people were shot to death earlier in the day, Police Superintendent Garry McCarthy said his department's best efforts could not prevent the bloodshed that spiked dramatically on Sunday. Chicago's total of 53 shooting incidents for the holiday weekend easily eclipsed Detroit and New York combined, which had a total of 46 shooting incidents, 10 of which were fatal.

"Going into the holiday weekend, we had a plan, including putting hundreds more officers on the streets, and what were the results?" McCarthy asked. "The results were a lot of shootings, a lot of murders, unfortunately."

The shootings over the Fourth of July holiday weekend included eight incidents that involved police,



PHOTOS BY ALEX WOOLLEWSKI, (CHICAGO) SUN-TIMES MEDIA/AP
Above: A woman talks to a Chicago police officer near the scene where a man was shot in the leg on Chicago's South Side. Right: Georgia Utendahl grieves after learning that her family member was shot by police, also on the South Side.

according to McCarthy. In five of those instances, officers shot at suspects. Two people — both 16 — were killed in those shootouts. McCarthy said that based on preliminary investigations, all of the officer-involved shootings appear to have been justified, including one in which officers fired after a suspect tried to run them over

with his car.

Even with the weekend shootings, Chicago police are on pace with last year for officer-involved shootings, with 33 so far in 2014, compared with 35 at the same time last year, according to McCarthy.

The Associated Press took its tally of shooting deaths for the holiday weekend from the Cook



County Medical Examiner's Office, from Thursday through Sunday. The number of shooting incidents came from Chicago police and was for Thursday evening through Sunday. The two deaths early Monday morning were not included in the weekend totals.

McCarthy, who came to the third-largest U.S. city from New

York, used the opportunity to again highlight the number of guns that are on Chicago's streets. While Chicago has tough gun sales and possession ordinances, McCarthy maintains that Illinois needs stiffer penalties for people who violate gun laws.

McCarthy said his officers are seeing more suspects who are reluctant to throw down their guns when confronted by police because they're more concerned with harsh treatment from their gangs if they lose their weapons than they are the legal system if they are arrested with them.

"Possession of a loaded firearm is not even considered a violent felony in the state of Illinois for sentencing purposes," McCarthy said, noting that gangs, on the other hand, may severely beat a member who loses a gun.

The latest spate of shootings also indicates how dangerous the streets can be, particularly in the summer when the warm weather puts more people on the streets. McCarthy noted that nearly half of the 53 shooting incidents over the holiday weekend happened on Sunday, when temperatures climbed into the upper 80s.



STEVEN M. FALK, PHILADELPHIA DAILY NEWS/AP

Police officers arrest a protester Monday at the fire station a block from the scene of a fire that claimed four young children early Saturday morning in Philadelphia.

2 arrested in protest over fire response

The Associated Press

PHILADELPHIA — Two people were arrested Monday night after residents gathered outside a fire station to protest what they say was a delayed response to a weekend row house fire that killed four young children.

About 200 residents turned out at the fire station after an afternoon community meeting to demand answers on firefighters' response to the blaze, which destroyed eight homes in Southwest Philadelphia. The protest drew dozens of police officers and resulted in several clashes.

Residents, some wearing T-shirts emblazoned with photos of the children, chanted "liars" outside the fire station. The Philadelphia Inquirer reported. The protest escalated when a ladder truck was apparently trying to move out of the firehouse and

several people laid down on the street, blocking its path, according to the newspaper. Officers moved in and grabbed them by their legs to pull them back.

Two protesters were taken into custody and charged with disorderly conduct. Officer Christine O'Brien said. She said no police officers or civilians were injured during the protest.

The protesters claim firefighters didn't respond as fast as they could to the blaze, which erupted Saturday shortly before 3 a.m. Flames quickly spread from row house to row house, engulfing at least 10. Some residents jumped from second-floor windows, but the four children were unable to escape.

Fire Commissioner Derrick Sawyer said that despite some lag time because the initial report had been for a rubbish fire, the first unit was on the scene within

three minutes. He said wildly incorrect rumors spread through the neighborhood that 30 minutes had passed before fire engines with water were on the scene.

"Our men and women gave the best," he told reporters Monday night. "They gave their all. They did nothing wrong."

Investigators are still trying to determine what caused the fire.

Grand Canyon crash site to be designated historic

The Associated Press

FLAGSTAFF, Ariz. — In the mid-1950s, air travel was a shadow of the highly advanced operation of checks and rules seen today. The skies were largely uncontrolled, and pilots outside major U.S. cities relied on sight to avoid catastrophes.

Then, two commercial airplanes crashed over the Grand Canyon in June 1956, killing all 128 people aboard in the deadliest aviation disaster of the time. It helped spur an overhaul to flight safety. A country already grappling with increasingly busy skies pressured Congress for major changes to improve air traffic control and radar systems and to create a federal agency to regulate it.

"It really did underscore for the general public for the first time that much of the airspace in America was uncontrolled at that time," said Peter Goetz, former managing director for the National Transportation Safety Board. "Once you got up to 20,000 feet and beyond the terminal radars, it was see and be seen."

Grand Canyon National Park was to mark the designation of the crash site Tuesday as a National Historic Landmark in a ceremony overlooking the gorge on the east end where the wreckage was scattered over 1.5 square miles.

The United Airlines Douglas DC-7 and a TWA Lockheed Super Constellation both left California on June 30, 1956, eventually crashing at the same altitude — 21,000 feet — after the TWA pilot requested to fly above the clouds. Shortly before 10 a.m., both pilots reported to different communication stations that they would be crossing over the canyon at the same position at 10:31 a.m.

The Salt Lake City controller who had that information was not obligated to tell either of the pilots they could be on a crash course. It was the sole responsibility of the pilots to avoid other aircraft in uncontrolled airspace.

At 10:31, a message from the United flight was later determined to be: "Salt Lake, United 718 ... ah ... we're going in." The TWA flight was not heard from again.

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NATION

Wildfires flare in western states

The Associated Press

WINTERS, Calif. — Crews battling a wildfire Monday in a rugged patch of far Northern California faced another day of triple-digit temperatures and gusty winds as officials warned the flames could again threaten homes.

Such dry conditions have hurt the fight against other wildfires in Nevada, Idaho, New Mexico, Utah and Washington state.

In California, crews were able to increase containment of the Monticello Fire to 45 percent from 35 percent in the steep mountains near Lake Berryessa in Yolo County.

More than 1,600 firefighters battling the blaze Monday made "good progress" on its front end as temperatures soared past 100 degrees, state fire spokesman Chris Christopherson said.

The fire has burned about 10 square miles since beginning Friday. It has been stoked by gusty winds and fueled by thick, brittle brush that has not burned for at



ASHLEY SMITH, TIMES-NEWS (TWIN FALLS, IDAHO)/AP

Firefighters battle the Colorado Gulch Fire as it advances toward homes near Hailey, Idaho, on Monday.

least two decades and is extremely dry because of the California drought.

Firefighters who had been battling another wildfire northwest of Lake Berryessa were sent to attack the Monticello Fire after the other blaze became 90 percent contained. It had burned nearly 7 square miles and destroyed two homes, Christopherson said.

Elsewhere in the West, officials reported gains in containing several wildfires that covered a combined 33 square miles in remote parts of eastern Nevada and southwestern Utah.

Also in eastern Nevada, the 14-square-mile Lages Fire was about 75 percent contained, with full containment expected Tuesday, federal Bureau of Land Management spokesman Chris Hanefeld said.

In northeast Utah, a wildfire that has burned 5 square miles, a home and two cabins was 25 percent contained. The Greek Peak Fire has burned 1.2 square miles in southwestern Utah and was about 80 percent contained.

In northern New Mexico, a lightning-sparked, 5½-square-mile fire was 95 percent contained.

In Idaho, all evacuations were lifted Monday as more crews were dispatched to the Colorado Gulch Fire in Blaine County as flames spread. The fire has blackened a square mile since it started Sunday. Officials hoped to have it contained Tuesday.

In central Washington, authorities advised residents in about 70 homes near Mansfield to prepare to evacuate after a fire that began Sunday burned over half a square mile.

Riders stranded on Calif. coaster

The Associated Press

SANTA CLARITA, Calif. — A roller coaster hit a tree branch at the Six Flags Magic Mountain amusement park Monday, dislodging the front car, leaving four people slightly injured and keeping nearly two dozen summer fun-seekers hanging 20 to 30 feet in the air for hours as day turned to night.

Two of the four people hurt on the Ninja coaster were taken to the hospital as a precaution, but all the injuries were minor, fire and park officials said.

"We were going across one turn and all of a sudden a loud noise happened," Jeremy Ead, one of the injured riders, told KCAL-TV. "I ducked down just in time. A hard branch hit me in the head. I was there bleeding from my head, which was a little worse than this," Ead said, pointing to a gash in his forehead.

The coaster hit the branch about 5:30 p.m. and stopped, said Michael Pittman, a Los Angeles County Fire Department dispatch supervisor. It was nearly three hours later before the last of the 22 riders were rescued.

Televised news reports showed at least one of the cars that normally are suspended beneath the track dangling at an angle, derailed at the front.

Firefighters and park maintenance workers in harnesses could be seen removing the riders one by one from the coaster cars.

All were alert and communicated with park staff during the evacuation process, Six Flags said in a statement.

The ride will be shut down while the accident is investigated, park spokeswoman Sue Carpenter said in a statement.

The accident comes nearly a year after a woman was ejected from a roller coaster at Six Flags Over Texas in Arlington and died. The death was ruled an accident, but her family has sued both Six Flags and the German company that built the coaster's trains, both of whom denied any wrongdoing.

In September 2012 at another Southern California amusement park, Knott's Berry Farm, riders were left dangling at 300 feet for more than three hours when its Windseeker ride broke down.

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Do we have a new Cold War? Many are asking this question as the current situation in Central Europe is further complicated by developments in Iraq and North Korea, and the "neo cons" reasserting toughness once again. It seemed all was well in the New World Order and all we needed was to enjoy the ever-expanding digital empowerment. Well, it may still be so, but we desperately need a judicious historical perspective on the world and figure out whether there is a new Cold War brewing. If so, how and where, and what are its implications for us?

These are some of the questions raised and answered this Friday evening. Prof. Garretson, who teaches East Asian Studies and Economics at UMUC, is a former Foreign Service officer for the State Department specializing in world politics.

This lecture is part of the "UMUC Presents" series, a public lecture sponsored each term by the UMUC Asia faculty. This is the 121st lecture in this series.



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NATION

Cyberspies target US experts on Middle East

By ANDREA PETERSON
The Washington Post

WASHINGTON — Middle East experts at major U.S. think tanks were hacked by Chinese cyberspies in recent weeks as events in Iraq began to escalate, according to a cybersecurity firm that works with the institutions.

The group behind the breaches, called "Deep Panda" by security researchers, appears to be affiliated with the Chinese government, said Dmitri Alperovitch, chief technology officer of the firm CrowdStrike. The company, which works with a number of think tanks on a pro bono basis, declined to name which ones have been breached.

Alperovitch said the firm noticed a "radical" shift in Deep Pandas' focus on June 18, the same day witnesses reported that Sunni extremists had seized Iraq's largest oil refinery. The Chinese group has typically focused on senior individuals at think tanks who follow Asia, said Alperovitch. Last month, it suddenly began targeting people with ties to Iraq and Middle East issues.

That latest breach follows a pattern identified by experts of Chinese cyberspies targeting major Washington institutions, including think tanks and law firms. It's rarely clear why Chinese cyberspies hack specific American targets, but experts say there are a few clues to why Deep Panda may have been interested in Middle East experts at think tanks.

China's need for natural resources has skyrocketed along with its economic profile, and the country has increasingly turned to the Middle East to fuel its energy needs. China surpassed the United States as the world's largest net importer of petroleum and other liquid fuels last September, according to the U.S. Energy Information Administration. In Iraq, China is a major oil investor.

"It wouldn't be surprising if the Chinese government is highly interested in getting a better sense of the possibility of deeper U.S. military involvement that could help protect the Chinese oil infrastructure in Iraq," Alperovitch wrote in a post on his company's blog.



ERIC GAY/AP

A group of immigrants from Honduras and El Salvador who crossed the U.S.-Mexico border illegally are detained in Granger, Texas, on June 25. Since October, the Border Patrol's Rio Grande Valley sector has made more than 194,000 arrests, nearly triple that of any other sector.

Obama asking for funds to address migrant crisis

By ERICA WERNER
AND JIM KUHNEN
The Associated Press

WASHINGTON — President Barack Obama on Tuesday asked Congress for \$3.7 billion to confront a tide of minors from Central America who are illegally crossing the U.S.-Mexican border, straining immigration resources and causing a political firestorm in Washington.

The White House says the money would help increase the detention, care and transportation of unaccompanied children, would help speed the removal of adults with children by increasing the capacity of immigration courts, and would increase prosecution of smuggling networks. It would increase surveillance at the U.S. border and help Central American countries repatriate border-crossers sent back from the United States.

The developments all come as Obama has declared comprehensive immigration legislation dead in Congress and announced plans to proceed on his own by executive action to make whatever fixes he can to the nation's dysfunctional

immigration system. That could put Obama in the seemingly contradictory position of shielding millions of people from deportation while at the same time trying to hurry deportations for the unaccompanied children.

The request for money did not include proposals for legislative changes that the White House wants. White House officials said Tuesday they still intend to work with Congress to increase the administration's authority to deport minor border crossers.

Administration officials say they are still working on ways to do it faster, but say that the request for specific legislative changes will move on a separate track than the emergency spending request Obama is sending to Congress on Tuesday.

Obama plans to discuss the crisis with faith and local leaders during a political fundraising visit to Texas on Wednesday, but he is resisting calls to visit the border for a firsthand look. The White House has invited Texas Republican Gov. Rick Perry, who is among those urging Obama to get to the border while he's in the state, to Wednesday's meeting in

Dallas.

House Appropriations Committee Chairman Hal Rogers, a Republican, calls the situation on the border "extremely dire."

As lawmakers return to Washington this week from a week-long recess, Obama's spending request is set to be a focus, with the Senate Appropriations Committee scheduling a hearing to examine it.

Meanwhile, United Nations officials are pushing for many of the Central Americans fleeing to the U.S. to be treated as refugees displaced by armed conflict, a designation meant to increase pressure on the United States to accept tens of thousands of people currently ineligible for asylum.

Officials with the U.N. High Commissioner for Refugees say they hope to see a regional agreement on that status Thursday, when migration and interior department representatives from the U.S., Mexico, and Central America meet in Nicaragua. The group will discuss updating a 30-year-old declaration regarding the obligations nations have to aid refugees.

Millennials give advice to Obama on website

By KAREN KAPLAN
Los Angeles Times

Millennials who struggled to sign up for health insurance on HealthCare.gov have some simple advice for the Obama administration: Make the website more like Yelp or TurboTax.

President Barack Obama famously told doubters that they could use the government's health insurance site to pick a health plan "the same way you shop for a plane ticket on Kayak, same way you shop for a TV on Amazon." Speaking at a community college in Maryland last fall, he promised that the process was "real simple."

That turned out not to be the case.

A study published Monday by Annals of Internal Medicine lays out some of the specific ways that HealthCare.gov — a centerpiece of the Patient Protection and Affordable Care Act — went wrong.

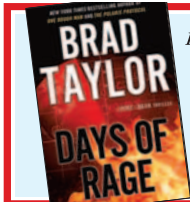
A team of doctors, lawyers, health economists and health policy experts from the University of Pennsylvania recruited 33 volunteers and observed them as they struggled to sign up for health insurance on the website.

Those volunteers should have been in pretty good shape. With ages ranging from 19 to 30, they were all members of an internet-savvy generation. In fact, the study described the young adults as "highly educated."

But when they got to HealthCare.gov, they ran into problems. Some of them had anticipated that they could type in their preferences — what services they wanted to have covered, how much they wanted to spend on premiums, how much flexibility they want in picking their doctors — and get a list of options that met their criteria. (It could have been the health insurance equivalent of using Yelp to find a sushi bar near a certain city that has outdoor seating and takes reservations.)

Instead, the volunteers had trouble matching their preferences with actual plans, according to the study.

As one of the volunteers told the study authors: "I would love a tool where it's, like, is it important that you have dental coverage? Check this box. Do you want mental health coverage? Check this box... [and then have it generate: These are the plans that most closely meet your needs.]"



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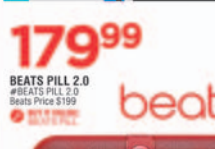
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WORLD



ALVARO BARRIENTOS/AP

Several hurt in Spain's running of the bulls

A bull jumps over revelers at the San Fermin bull ring in Pamplona, Spain, on Tuesday. Revelers from around the world take part in the nine-day event. Three people were injured, one seriously, as thousands of daredevils raced alongside six fighting bulls. One person was gored in the opening run Monday. Dozens of people are injured each year in the 8 a.m. run, which takes place along a 930-yard course from a holding pen to the bull ring. Most are hurt in falls. Fifteen people have died from gorings since record-keeping began in 1924. The street-partying festival was immortalized in Ernest Hemingway's 1926 novel, "The Sun Also Rises."

Israel launches Gaza offensive

By NAJIB JOBAIN
AND ARON HELLER
The Associated Press

GAZA CITY, Gaza Strip — The Israeli military launched what could be a long-term offensive in the Hamas-ruled Gaza Strip on Tuesday, striking more than 100 sites and mobilizing troops for a possible ground invasion aimed at stopping a heavy barrage of rocket attacks against Israel.

At least 10 Palestinians, including two children, were killed in the attacks from air and sea, Palestinian officials said.

The military said the open-ended operation aims to deliver a blow against the Islamic Hamas group and end the rocket fire that has reached deeper into Israel.

Israeli officials said the government had authorized the army to mobilize an additional 40,000 troops, if needed, for the operation. The army said there were no immediate plans to call up the troops, but that they would be activated depending on operational needs. Israel has already mobilized about 1,500 reservists.

The rocket attacks and Israeli counterstrikes have intensified in recent weeks as tensions have soared over the killing of three Israeli teenagers and the apparent revenge killing of a Palestinian teenager by three Jewish suspects.

The military said more than 120 rockets hit Israel over the past two



EYAD BABA/AP

Smoke and fire rise after an Israeli missile strike in Rafah, the Gaza Strip, on Tuesday.

days, a dramatic spike after nearly two years of relative quiet that followed a previous Israeli campaign to root out Gaza rocket launchers. Israel responded with dozens of airstrikes throughout Gaza, targeting the homes of several Hamas operatives allegedly involved in rocket fire.

In addition, the military said it struck militant compounds, concealed rocket launchers and other militant infrastructure sites. Most were targeted by airstrikes, and three were attacked from the sea. Later, it also took out what it said was a Hamas command center embedded within a civilian building.

The four Hamas militants killed Tuesday died when an airstrike

hit the car in which they were traveling. Hamas officials said. One of the dead was identified as Mohammed Shaban, a senior militant.

Later Tuesday, another airstrike hit the home of a Hamas leader in the southern town of Khan Younis, killing six people, Hamas officials said. They said two children were among the dead.

The airstrike caused heavy damage to the building and set off a scene of panic as crowds of people, some of them bloodied, fled the smoldering remains. Screaming Palestinians took away motionless bodies, including what appeared to be the two children.

Israel has signaled that it will halt its aerial campaign if quiet

was restored. But as the rocket fire intensified, senior Israeli officials have said the campaign could be prolonged.

Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu has instructed the military to prepare options for every scenario, including a potential ground invasion.

"We will not tolerate rocket fire from Israel cities, and we are preparing to expand the operation with everything at our disposal to strike Hamas," said Israeli Defense Minister Moshe Yaalon, who announced a special state of emergency in southern Israel.

Palestinian President Mahmoud Abbas called on Israel to halt the airstrikes immediately and appealed for calm.

"The Palestinian leadership is conducting intensive and urgent contacts with regional and international parties to stop the escalation," he said.

Powerful typhoon pounds Okinawa

By ELAINE KURTENBACH
The Associated Press

TOKYO — A powerful typhoon pummeled the southern Japanese islands of Okinawa on Tuesday, paralyzing transport and prompting U.S. forces based there to cancel all outdoor activity.

The Okinawan government said 10 people were injured, one seriously. Separately, a man was reported missing from a fishing boat in rough seas off Kyushu island to the north.

One of the strongest and biggest typhoons to hit during Japan's summer months, Typhoon Neoguri was packing sustained winds of 120 miles per hour and gusts up to 148 mph, the Japan Meteorological Agency said.

"Please refrain from non-essential activities and from approaching hazardous areas," said Meteorological Agency official Satoshi Ebihara. "Please show extreme caution."

Local airports were closed, and some 59,000 people were advised to evacuate their homes, though most remained put, taking refuge from the destructive winds, plus waves up to 46 feet high and storm surges that were set to intensify as the typhoon passed the main island of Okinawa in the evening.

More than half of the 50,000 U.S. troops in Japan are based on Okinawa, the location of several bases, including Kadena, the biggest U.S. air base in Asia. An advisory on its website said all outdoor activity was prohibited.

Television footage showed a building shattered, damaged storefronts and trees toppled as winds picked up in the Okinawan capital of Naha.

Since typhoons track along Japan's coasts, often veering onshore every summer, the country is relatively well prepared. Much greater damage is likely from torrential rains if the typhoon hits land as expected on Thursday or Friday and moves across the Japanese archipelago.

The storm was moving slowly and diminishing in intensity, but its wide area and slow movement could add to the potential damage, weather forecasters said.

Authorities in China and Taiwan also warned ships to stay clear of the storm.

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WORLD

Ukrainian rebels seize town as EU eyes new sanctions

DARYNA KRASNOLUTSKA
AND DARIA MARCHAK
Bloomberg News

KIEV, Ukraine — Ukrainian rebels seized a town in the Luhansk region Tuesday after a retreat from eastern strongholds as European Union states considered expanding a list of Russians facing sanctions as soon as Wednesday.

Several hundred rebels seized Popasna, a city of 20,000 people, news service Interfax reported, citing the separatists. After the militants shifted thousands of fighters to the provincial capital of Donetsk last week, Ukrainian forces continued to press their campaign, according to Ukrainian Deputy Foreign Minister Danylo Lubivskyi, who said the separatists "wouldn't agree to peace talks."

"The turmoil in Ukraine is slowly coming to its logical conclusion," Lubivskyi said in Kiev. "An active antiterrorist operation is continuing because they don't want to lay down their arms."

Representatives of the 28 EU governments met in Brussels on Monday and agreed that sanctions could be applied as soon as Wednesday to more Russians

they accuse of backing the rebels. President Vladimir Putin's government is calling for peace talks amid Russia's biggest showdown with the United States and its European allies since the fall of the Berlin Wall.

About 50 people were killed, mostly civilians, over the weekend as government forces drove rebels out of Kramatorsk in the northern part of the Donetsk region, the city government said on its website. More than 140 people were injured in the clashes, with 22 still in the hospital.

Pro-Russia militias attacked Ukrainian positions a dozen times in the past 24 hours, including a tank assault on the Luhansk airport, Defense Ministry spokesman Andriy Lyсенko said. They destroyed seven bridges, including three Monday, after the army recaptured territory, the government said on its website.

The insurgents also laid mines, posing a risk to civilians, the Defense Ministry said in a statement.

Ukraine's army has won the biggest victories of its three-month campaign during the past few days, retaking the towns of Sloviansk and Kramatorsk. Lyсенko said government troops



A woman looks through a broken window in her house after shelling in Luhansk, eastern Ukraine, on Tuesday. Local residents said it was a shelling from the Ukrainian army's side.

had blocked all roads to Donetsk and Luhansk. Several thousand militants and dozens of vehicles including tanks and armored personnel carriers moved to the bigger cities on Saturday.

The militants have vowed to make a stand there. Citizens in Donetsk report daily gunfire and explosions, while Ukrainian army forces have yet to enter the cities in force. Two people died and eight were wounded by shelling in Luhansk, according to Lyсенko, who said the militants had

fired the round.

Any decision by the EU on sanctions this week will build on the asset freezes and travel bans the bloc has already imposed on 61 people.

Its first opportunity to consider wider penalties on Russian industry, investment or trade will be at a July 16 summit. Objections by countries such as Italy, Austria, Slovakia, France and Greece have frustrated moves toward broader sanctions, which require unanimity.

C. African Republic rebels attack church

BANGUI, Central African Republic — Officials say at least 17 people are dead after Muslim rebels attacked a Catholic church compound that was housing thousands of displaced civilians.

The Rev. Thibault Ndemaguisa said he had counted at least 17 bodies and 10 other people were wounded in the attack. The rebels converged on the St. Joseph Cathedral of Bambari late Monday.

Residents said the rebels had launched the attack in retaliation for the killing of a young Muslim man, and they accused church officials of supporting local Christian militia fighters.

US diplomat: Bahrain expulsion 'not about me'

MANAMA, Bahrain — A senior U.S. diplomat ordered to leave the Middle Eastern nation of Bahrain after meeting with a leading Shiite opposition group says the American ally's move appears aimed at undermining reconciliation efforts between the government and the opposition.

Assistant Secretary of State for Democracy, Human Rights and Labor Tom Malinowski said on his Twitter feed Tuesday that Bahrain's decision is "not about me but about undermining dialogue," and that "those committed to reconciliation should not be deterred."

Bahrain's Foreign Ministry on Monday said Malinowski is not welcome because he intervened in the country's domestic affairs by holding meetings with some groups at the expense of others.

A largely Shiite opposition movement in Bahrain has pressed for greater freedoms from the Sunni monarchy.

Vietnam raises chopper crash death toll to 18

HANOI, Vietnam — A Vietnamese official Tuesday raised the death toll to 18 from a military helicopter crash that happened close to the capital on a parachute training mission, adding that three others were being treated for serious injuries.

The Russian-made Mi-171 helicopter came down Monday morning about 15 minutes after takeoff in a small village about 24 miles west of Hanoi.

Reports in the state-controlled media said 16 of those on board were parachute recruits from the air force's helicopter regiment. There were also two trainers and three crewmembers on board.

From The Associated Press

Iraqi parliament to meet Sunday on new government

From staff and wire reports

BAGHDAD — Iraq's parliament on Tuesday officially rescheduled its next session for early next week after criticism over initial plans for a five-week break, amid pressure for political leaders to agree on a new government that can confront militants who have overrun much of the country's north and west.

Acting parliament Speaker Mahdi al-Hafidh said in a statement that after considering the "national interests," the next session will be on Sunday instead of Aug. 12.

He warned that any delay in forming a new government "will jeopardize Iraq's security and democracy and will increase the suffering of Iraqis."

He also called on all political rivals to "shoulder their responsibilities and set aside their differences to fight terrorism to put Iraq back on the democracy path."

Al-Hafidh's statement made official what he had said late Monday was a "preliminary agreement" among political leaders to skip the long break and move the next session up to Sunday.

In Washington on Tuesday, Sen. John McCain, R-Ariz., said the Obama administration lacks a coherent strategy for dealing with Iraq, after a confidential briefing with Defense Secretary Chuck Hagel and Chairman of the Joint Chiefs Gen. Martin Dempsey.

"They have no strategy nor could they articulate a strategy to counter what our intelligence estimates over time would be a direct

threat to the United States of America," said McCain, who called the territory along the Iraq-Syria border, now controlled by the radical al-Qaida breakaway group known as the Islamic State, the largest terrorist enclave in history.

Sen. Lindsey Graham, R-S.C., said Hagel and Dempsey could not explain how the extremists could be pushed back without deeper military involvement in Iraq.

"Name a force that could dislodge these people and deny them their safe haven in the region that doesn't include American military air power," Graham said following the briefing. "I can't think of a group — nobody has given me a group yet — that can accomplish that task."

He said there is no confidence on Capitol Hill that the government in Baghdad will be able to deliver the type of counteroffensive necessary.

Sen. Claire McCaskill, D-Mo., said Iraqi Prime Minister Nouri al-Maliki's government in Baghdad appears to be standing in the way of effectively fighting the Islamist onslaught.

"It is very clear to me the problem in Iraq is the Iraq government, and Maliki refusing to acknowledge that he must include all of Iraq, and until he is willing to do what is politically necessary, it is going to be a slog," McCaskill said.

Meanwhile, she said the U.S. must continue to work with regional allies and moderate Sunnis in Iraq.

Moderates "will ultimately reject the kind

of government who would cut off your finger for smoking a cigarette. That's what this extreme organization represents," she said. "Ultimately, their extremism will not help them govern."

Iraqi lawmakers are under pressure to quickly form a new government that can unite the country and roll back the insurgents. The legislature held its first session since April elections last week, but failed to agree on a new speaker, president and prime minister.

Despite the decision to meet Sunday instead of next month, it appears unlikely that political leaders will be able to bridge their differences in time to settle on names for the top leadership posts — particularly the prime minister, with incumbent al-Maliki resisting a campaign to replace him.

Al-Maliki's State of Law bloc won the largest share of seats in April's election, securing 92 out of parliament's 328 seats. But he is far short of the majority needed to govern, which means he needs allies to cobble together a coalition government.

His opponents — and many former allies — want him removed, accusing him of monopolizing power during his eight years in office and contributing to the current crisis by failing to promote reconciliation with Sunnis. He has vowed he will not abandon his bid for a third consecutive term.

Stars and Stripes reporter Travis Tritton contributed to this report.



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Ernie Gates

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OPINION

GOP obstructing the millennial vote

By CATHERINE RAMPPELL
The Washington Post

First they came for blacks, and we said nothing. Then they came for Latinos, poor people and married women, and we again ignored the warning signs.

Now, after our years of apathy, they're coming for us: the nation's millennials.

Across the country, Republican state policymakers have hoisted barriers to voting by passing voter-ID laws and curtailing electoral accommodations such as same-day registration and early voting. These policy changes are allegedly intended to eradicate the imagined scourge of voter fraud, but the real point seems to be voter suppression.

For a time, the targeted populations were primarily racial, ethnic and income groups that traditionally vote Democratic. Now they happen to include Gen-Yers, more specifically my college-age brethren. We millennials may be fickle in our loyalties, generally distrustful of government institutions and unaligned with any political party, but our generation's motley, liberal-to-libertarian-leaning ideological preferences still threaten red-state leadership.

In response, Republicans have set out to erect creative, if potentially unconstitutional, Tough-Mudder-style obstacle courses along our path to the polls.

Last year in Ohio, for example, Republican legislators proposed a measure that would effectively strip hundreds of millions of dollars from state schools if they failed to provide students paying out-of-state tuition with the paperwork necessary to register to vote in the state (as courts have

said college students are legally allowed to do). In Maine, the secretary of state investigated 200 university students for voter fraud; he found no evidence of wrongdoing but then sent a threatening letter telling them that they must either obtain a Maine driver's license and register their vehicles or cancel their state voter registrations. In Texas, photo identification is required to vote and, while concealed handgun licenses count, state-school-issued student IDs don't.

North Carolina's efforts have been particularly aggressive, perhaps because young people represent an especially threatening voting bloc to the Republicans in control there. Without the strong turnout of young voters in 2008, after all, Barack Obama would not have become the first Democratic presidential candidate in more than two decades to carry the Tar Heel State.

Like other states, North Carolina has eliminated many accommodations disproportionately used by young people and other first-time voters, such as same-day registration, and instituted voter-ID requirements that don't recognize student IDs. But it has also stopped allowing 16- and 17-year-olds to fill out voter-registration forms early so that they can be automatically registered upon reaching majority age. Another state Senate bill last year would have effectively raised taxes on parents of students who registered to vote where they attend college.

Perhaps it is unsurprising, then, that the state faces a lawsuit filed by college students, aided by several voter registration advocacy groups, as The New York Times

reported Sunday. The suit essentially claims that the state is engaging in age discrimination. Age discrimination accusations may be off-limits to young people in employment settings — federal law doesn't protect workers under age 40 — but when it comes to elections, the plaintiffs have a shot. The 26th Amendment, which lowered the federal voting age to 18 in 1971, guarantees that the right to vote "shall not be denied or abridged by the United States or by any State on account of age."

Republican lawmakers may feel threatened by the political proclivities of millennials, but the truth is, aside from 2008, young people are not usually much of a concern to either party because our turnout rates are so poor. Of all age groups, Americans 18 to 29 consistently have the lowest participation rates — even in the 2008 election, when our generation was galvanized around an unusually inspiring presidential candidate promising hope and change. That year, just 51 percent of 18- to 29-year-olds cast ballots. Sadly, it was the first time since 1972 that a majority of young people voted.

For years, get-out-the-vote groups such as Rock the Vote and Citizen Change have tried to market voting as rebellious and enviably adult (including by enlisting celebrity spokespeople who were unregistered themselves, and at least one who was possibly barred from voting due to felony records). If Paris Hilton, 50 Cent and Madonna can't persuade young people to vote, maybe a bunch of old white men trying to bar their path will do the job.

Catherine Rampell comments on economics, policy and culture, and anchors The Washington Post's "Damage Blog."

It's a common set of expectations, not curriculum

By KARIN CHENOWETH

Fanning the firestorm over Common Core State Standards is the fear that by adopting common standards, states are signing onto a national curriculum and thus undermining the decisions of local school boards and educators.

But before going too far down that road, an important distinction needs to be made between standards — which outline what students should know and be able to do at each grade level — and curriculum — which is what happens day to day and week to week in classrooms. Standards remain constant, but curriculum can be altered year to year or classroom to classroom to ensure students are meeting the learning goals.

Let me illustrate with examples from three high-performing, high-poverty schools in three different states.

I asked them to share with me lessons they had developed to meet three of Common Core's reading and language arts standards, which say that fifth-graders should know how to:

- Use a dictionary and other reference materials.
- Identify the main ideas and supporting details of a text.
- Cite evidence to support an answer.

The first lesson, from George Hall Elementary in Mobile, Ala., is on the human circulatory system, part of a larger unit on major body systems, including the respiratory, excretory and reproductive systems. During the lesson, the teacher introduced particular terms the students would encounter in their reading, such as capillaries and white blood cells, and asked the students to look up and record the definition

of those terms in their science journals. Students then read "The Circulatory System" and the fictional "A Journey through the Digestive System with Max Axiom" and consulted other nonfiction books. At the end of the lesson, students were asked to describe the function of the circulatory system in three to five sentences, citing evidence from the texts.

The second is from Finlay Elementary in Miami and is part of a three-week literature unit on "Hatchet," a story of wilderness survival. The teacher discussed the genre of realistic fiction with the students and then introduced vocabulary words such as hatchet, vibration and rudder. Students read along as the teacher read aloud, modeling fluent and expressive reading. Every couple of chapters, they wrote an analysis of the main ideas of the chapters along with the supporting details and an analysis of how the chapters fit together.

This unit was paired with an environmental unit they were doing in science that culminated with a field trip to Biscayne Bay, where students learned about the kind of conditions in which the "Hatchet" protagonist found himself.

The third is from De Queen Elementary in southwestern Arkansas and is part of a large interdisciplinary English and science unit on the environment that has as its core question, "Why is it important to protect and preserve the Earth?" Before the students read "The River Ran Wild" by Lynne Cherry, a nonfiction account of the pollution and subsequent restoration of the Nashua River, teachers introduced vocabulary that students would encounter, with a focus on multisyllabic words with prefixes, suffixes, root words and inflectional endings such as industrial and migration.

After reading the book, they read about the Dust Bowl, which helped bring about the Great Depression, and other environmental effects of industry and farming. Students were then asked to write essays using complex sentences about Marion Stoddard, the woman who sparked the restoration of the Northeast's Nashua River in the 1960s.

This is just a taste of these lessons, which are much more nuanced and sophisticated than the ones I tried to describe. And I should note that these are not the only lessons designed to help students meet those standards; kids don't learn complicated skills from one lesson.

But the point is that Common Core standards merely provide goals or benchmarks for learning to be filled by science, history and literature lessons — all determined by local educators.

The idea behind the standards, which are in place in 43 states, is that no matter where students live or what their life circumstances may be, they should all have to meet the same expectations for learning — such as being able to use a dictionary and cite evidence from a text. Those common expectations can be met in a whole variety of ways, leaving all the most important decisions about curriculum, lessons and classroom activities in the hands of local schools and districts.

But by having a common set of expectations to measure their decisions against, school boards and educators will have a lot more information about how well they are serving all their students. That doesn't undermine them; it supports them.

Karin Chenoweth is writer-in-residence at The Education Trust, a national education advocacy organization, and author of "How It's Being Done: Urgent Lessons from Unexpected Schools."

OPINION

Vote pits 'Out of his depth' vs. 'Out of touch'

BY MICHAEL GERSON

The headline — “Obama Worst President Since World War II” — was both provocative and misleading. The Quinipiac survey did, indeed, place President Barack Obama at the top of the worst since FDR. But this was largely a measure of partisan concentration. Republicans were united in their unfavorable historical judgment of Obama. Democrats divided their votes (and would insist, I’d imagine, that they have more options to choose from).

We already know that Obama is a highly polarizing figure. But beneath the headline, the poll identified serious problems for the president. Fifty-four percent of respondents said the Obama administration is “not competent running the government.” (Shout-out to HealthCare.gov.) A majority believe the president does not have “strong leadership qualities.” Obama is solidifying a perception that he is out of his depth. Once made, such an impression is difficult to unmake.

And the failings of the Obama era are contributing to a deeper crisis for liberalism. Public confidence that government generally does the right thing is near an all-time low. In a recent Gallup poll, 79 percent of Americans agreed that corruption is “widespread throughout the government” — up from 59 percent in 2006. During a presidency that placed considerable trust in government, public trust in government has been badly shaken.

Obama is left with a job approval rating — in the low to mid-40s — that is about the same as when his party lost 63 House seats during the 2010 midterm elections. On the stump, his strategy is a ferocious peevishness. Republicans “don’t do anything except block me and call me names” — an

accusation in the best rhetorical tradition of schoolyarders everywhere. His promised use of executive power seems more like a confession of powerlessness in the normal political realms of persuasion and legislation.

On his executive orders, Obama challenges the House speakers: “So sue me.” As a former speechwriter, I’d advise greater care in the choice of catchphrases. When Ronald Reagan goaded Congress on tax increases with “Go ahead, make my day,” he was channeling Clint Eastwood. “So sue me” sounds like the guy who steals your parking space and taunts you afterward. Pettulance does not signal strength.

On policy issues, Obama has few places to turn. Public impressions of the economy seem set. Obamacare is enduringly controversial. The IRS and Veterans Affairs scandals continue to unfold. Foreign policy hardly offers a refuge — as years of disengagement in the Middle East now require engagement on dramatically less favorable terms.

Obama therefore turns to the two issues that Democrats keep in their back pocket, confident that broad social currents are running in their favor: immigration and contraception. I support many Americans, not just Democrats, keep contraception in their back pocket. In the long run, the political analysis that informs this strategy is correct. The American electorate is becoming more demographically diverse and more culturally liberal on some issues. When it comes to Hispanic voters, younger voters and single voters, Republicans can seem out of touch (because they mostly are).

So the midterm contest sets up: “Out of his depth” vs. “Out of touch.”

But both of Obama’s surefire issues offer complications. The appearance of chaos at



the border — fueled, in part, by rumors of an immigration free pass — may lead the Obama administration to seek procedural reforms that expedite the deportation of children. The only successful immigration legislation this session may be a border-control measure — signed by a president whose administration has already deported more than 2 million immigrants.

And the “war on women” prompted by the Supreme Court turns out to be narrow exception to a 2011 Health and Human Services regulation — an exception allowing a family-owned company to provide 16 types of contraception to its employees instead of 20. The court ordered the Obama administration, when it substantiated barens a religious belief, to pursue the “least

restrictive means” of achieving its goal — which has been the law since Bill Clinton signed the Religious Freedom Restoration Act in 1993.

It is hard to imagine that the president’s use of cultural wedge issues will have much effect in battleground Senate races, conducted (this time around) mainly in red states. But even if it does — even if a deep blue appeal moves voters substantially — a historical reputation will be set.

“I don’t want to pit red America against blue America,” Obama once said. Now he organizes the sorting of America between red and blue. Best president or worst, he has left a nation more divided.

Michael Gerson is a member of Washington Post Writers Group.

MRAPs, protecting GIs and effective procurement

BY WALTER PINCUS

The Washington Post

What price do you put on protecting American troops in combat?

Put another way, has the \$45 billion to \$50 billion invested in purchasing IEDs been worth it — mine-resistant, ambush-protected troop-carrying vehicles — been worth it?

Former Defense Secretary Robert Gates, in speeches and in his book “Duty,” pretty well set the public version of the story.

In 2004-05, improvised explosive devices, IEDs, became the “signature” of the war in Iraq, causing up to 80 percent of fatalities. Adding armor to Humvee troop carriers didn’t solve the problem.

Gates was in Iraq when he read an April 2007 USA Today article about MRAPs, whose V-shaped bottoms provided added protection to passengers. Upon his return to the Pentagon, he learned that because there was not enough money, only 1,300 MRAPs had been built out of about 6,000 ordered. When he initially pushed for more rapid procurement, “not a single senior [Pentagon] official, civilian or military, supported his proposal for a crash program to buy MRAPs,” said Christopher Lamb, former deputy assistant secretary of defense for resources and plans and now at National Defense University.

Gates decided “to make the MRAPs the Pentagon’s number one acquisition priority for moral reasons,” Lamb told a June 24 House Armed Services Committee hearing. “Gates’ belief in America showed that everything possible to protect the volunteers

it sent in war,” Lamb said.

Field commanders in Iraq had begun putting in piecemeal requests for MRAPs as early as June 2003, but in Washington “those in charge of Pentagon requirements did not think these options were a good fit for the U.S. military,” Lamb said.

It took almost three years after the first requests from the field before the Pentagon requirement system went to Congress in a supplemental funding request for a major purchase of MRAPs, Lamb said. Pushing it along in 2007 were Democratic Sens. Edward Kennedy, of Massachusetts, and Joe Biden, of Delaware.

Why the delay? Many Pentagon decision-makers did like purchasing heavy, armored vehicles that would have limited value in future wars.

There also was the expense.

“MRAPs cost three to seven times as much as an up-armored Humvee, from \$600,000 to \$1 million per vehicle,” Lamb said.

In the end, more than 10,000 MRAPs were fielded in 18 months. At that point, “only about 5 percent of casualties were attributable to IEDs, even though insurgents were targeting MRAPs with IEDs for symbolic reasons,” Lamb said.

In his book, Gates wrote about visiting Walter Reed Army Medical Center and meeting a soldier who told him, “‘Your MRAP saved my life! I managed to keep my composure — barely. I didn’t fully appreciate at the time the emotional toll my duties were taking on me.’”

About 25,000 MRAPs were built through 2012, including models for mine-clearing, ambulance and recovery — some 25

variants overall. One analysis found that “MRAPs cost less than replacing and caring for the casualties from the IEDs ... and politically the MRAPs helped shore up public support for the war effort,” Lamb said.

Despite their success in Iraq and more recently in Afghanistan, Gates’ MRAP procurement decision is still controversial within the military and among outside experts.

Lamb pointed out to the House committee a danger that senior civilian Defense Department officials “frustrated with Pentagon processes are increasingly inclined to jettison disciplined defense analyses in favor of intuitive and impressionistic decision-making, which I think would be a mistake.”

Some military analysts noted that the IED casualty rate was already declining because of the change in Gen. David Petraeus’ counterinsurgency tactics, so the MRAP impact was marginal.

Meanwhile, since 2007 the Army and Marines have been focusing on the Joint Light Tactical Vehicle to replace Humvees. The Army is projected to buy about 50,000 from fiscal 2015 to fiscal 2040, while the Marines’ plan calls for 5,500 from fiscal 2015 to fiscal 2021, according to the Pentagon’s December 2012 Selected Acquisition Report.

Together, the Army and Marine Corps have decided to keep only 10,000 MRAPs for future use. The Army plans to keep 8,500 — most mothballed for future contingencies — and get rid of about 7,500. Defense News has reported that about 2,000 MRAPs in Afghanistan are up for auction

because it costs nearly \$300,000 each to return them to the U.S. Small numbers are being taken by U.S. police departments, and Pakistan is reportedly seeking some. Many are bound to be scrapped.

One other aspect of the MRAP procurement story is worth recording. While the initial delay can be mainly attributed to the force development and requirements system — which is always concerned with the next big war — you cannot discount what Lamb described as the military “service cultures that generally undervalue irregular warfare capabilities.”

“Service organizations cultures disincite the Pentagon to field capabilities for irregular warfare that compete with established warfighting programs,” Lamb said. To some degree that led years ago to the Special Operations Command having its own procurement capability for specific gear and services for its unique missions.

Now, according to Lamb, “if we want better capabilities for irregular warfare or joint capabilities for other major mission areas” outside traditional ground, sea and air warfare, “we will have to embrace alternative decision-making mechanisms and processes.”

His major message is: “The intense oversight and rigid processes that govern large, long-term major acquisition programs are not appropriate for quick fielding of creative solutions in irregular and rapidly evolving circumstances.”

Lessons from MRAP should be put to use.

Walter Pincus reports on intelligence, defense and foreign policy for The Washington Post and writes the Fine Print column.

NATION



PHOTOS BY CRAIG RUTTLE/AP

GRAAFICS student Devon Collins, 16, stands near students Tysia Blair, 16, and Jamal Williams, 18, after attending an internship as part of their classwork.



Kai Smith, right, former gang member and now founder and executive director of GRAAFICS, or Gang Diversion, Re-entry and Absent Father Intervention Center, talks with Collins, of East New York, in the Brownsville neighborhood of Brooklyn.

Crews of New York

BY JAKE PEARSON
AND JENNIFER PELTZ
The Associated Press

NEW YORK — There are more than 300 of them in New York — violent crews of dozens of 12- to 20-year-olds with names such as Very Crispy Gangsters, True Money Gang and Cash Bama Bullies.

Police say those groups, clustered around a particular block or housing project, are responsible for about 40 percent of the city's shootings, with most of that violence stemming from the smallest of disses on the street, Facebook, Twitter or Instagram.

"It's like belonging to an evil fraternity," said Inspector Kevin Catalina, commander of the New York Police Department's gang division. "A lot of it is driven by nothing — a dispute over a girl or a wrong look or a perceived slight."

The trend of smaller, younger crews has also been seen in Chicago and Northeast cities over the last few years as police have cracked down on bigger, more traditional gangs, experts said. While the Bloods, Crips and Latin Kings still exist, operating such moneymaking schemes as drug dealing, their members are usually older and understand the timeworn mantra of organized crime: Violence is bad for business.

Not so for the crews, whose recklessness prompted former Police Commissioner Raymond Kelly in 2012 to launch an initiative, dubbed Operation Crew Cut, to confront the crews.

Investigators now focus on gather-

Teen gang members linked to about 40 percent of all shootings in NYC

ing intelligence about specific crews — understanding their activities, allegiances and feuds, which they glean through traditional street policing and trolling of social media sites, cell-phone photos and even recorded jailhouse calls.

Police have also stepped up arrests of the most active crewmembers. In Manhattan, prosecutors set up an internal email alert system that notifies them when crewmembers are arrested, even on minor charges, and provides beyond-the-rap-sheet details for bail arguments. The prosecutor might mention that the person was a suspect in another crime or had made threats on Facebook, for instance.

In a recent case in Harlem, Manhattan District Attorney Cyrus R. Vance Jr. said a 2009 killing kindled years of vendetta attacks, including three killings and 30 shootings. Sixty-

three people were rounded up, and at least 62 entered guilty pleas, including crewmembers so young that one told another to "mob up" after school. "The evidence was very powerful," said Robert Anesi, who represented a 19-year-old who pleaded guilty to attempted murder and conspiracy charges in the case. "They had such access to social media and they knew who the players were."

NYPD statistics show gang arrests are up citywide nearly 14 percent from 2013 — and more than 28 percent from two years ago. Shooting incidents citywide are about the same as they were last year, with 282 recorded so far; they are down by nearly 23 percent from two years ago.

Still, crew-related violence persists despite record dips in overall crime in New York City over the last few years. The most notable recent case came in

March when investigators said a 14-year-old member of the Stack Money Goons shot a .357 revolver at a rival member of the Twan Family on a crowded bus in Brooklyn. The bullet instead killed an immigrant father who was working two jobs to support his family.

"When you ask young adults, 'Why? Why did you shoot that young man?' Probably 80 percent of the time, the answer is He disrespected me," said Kai Smith, an ex-con-turned-businessman who runs a gang-diversion program in city high schools called GRAAFICS, or Gang Diversion, Re-entry and Absent Father Intervention Centers Inc.

Smith works with students who have been arrested at least once, forcing them to define what disrespect means through exercises and role-playing.

Jamal Williams, 18, a high school junior, said he's been affiliated with crews and gangs since he was 9, although he's trying to turn his life around.

"A crew to me is a family," he said. "They are going to be there for me like my parents was never there for me."

As more crewmembers are locked up, investigators are noticing a trend of crewmembers shifting affiliations behind bars, emerging as a sort of hybrid gang-crew combination with diffused connections and alliances.

"That has really complicated this universe," Catalina said. "We went from a traditional gang problem to a crew problem, and now we're morphing back into somewhat of a traditional gang problem."

'It's like belonging to an evil fraternity. A lot of it is driven by nothing — a dispute over a girl or a wrong look or a perceived slight.'

Kevin Catalina

commander of the New York Police Department's gang division

NATION



STEVE HELBER/AP

Secretary of the Interior Sally Jewell, left, tours Jamestown Island in Jamestown, Va.

Vulnerable to rising seas

After tour, Interior secretary says Virginia island's historic locale is at risk

By STEVE SZKOTAK
The Associated Press

INTERIOR Secretary Sally Jewell got a firsthand look recently at the effect of climate change on the ever-receding Jamestown island in Virginia, concluding that America's first permanent European settlement is clearly vulnerable to rising seas.

Led by National Park Service rangers, Jewell trekked around the island, where some sections now lie beneath the James River, and heard of the devastation in 2003 when Hurricane Isabel raked the low-lying landscape. The storm left many parts of the island underwater and destroyed thousands of artifacts retrieved from archaeological digs. Many are still being restored.

Dorothy Geyen, a Park Service natural resource specialist, said a 1½-foot rise in sea level would put 60 percent of the island underwater and a 4-foot-plus rise would increase that number to 80 percent.

In an interview with The Associated

Press between her stops, Jewell said Jamestown is certainly vulnerable.

"I know enough now, having been in this job looking at vulnerable sites, that this is a highly vulnerable site," Jewell said. "We don't have very many places in the United States that talk about the super early history of settlers connecting with the native people of the land, so this is a really an important place."

Jewell said her visit to Jamestown was part of the Obama administration's push to address climate change, including its ambitious plan to reduce gases from the nation's power plants blamed in part for global warming.

"It's very clear we have global warming and sea level rise, and this is a hot spot for it," Jewell said. "And what's at risk is the history of our country."

Jamestown's history

Jamestown was settled in 1607 by Europeans, including Capt. John Smith. When European settlers arrived, there already was a thriving population of Native Americans led by paramount Chief Powhatan. The remnants of both native

people and settlers can be found on the island. The first settlers found a land defined by water, and that landscape

'It's very clear we have global warming and sea level rise, and this is a hot spot for it. And what's at risk is the history of our country.'

Secretary Sally Jewell
Department of the Interior

has only shifted more and more that way. Some parts of the island are only feet above sea level.

The Tidewater of Virginia and sections of the Chesapeake Bay are among the most vulnerable to sea change in the world. The city of Norfolk, Va., is second only to New Orleans in the U.S. in terms of the threat posed by rising seas.

While climate change is a big factor, the region is also sinking — the result of a meteor that gouged out the Chesapeake Bay 35 million years ago.

The tour followed a report in May by the Union of Concerned Scientists that lists Jamestown as among 30 historic and cultural sites in the nation that are at risk because of climate change.

Jewell was an enthusiastic tourist, trekking through mosquito-infested wetlands and through stands of loblolly pines as she peppered her guides with questions. She visited a glass-making site and a former Confederate outpost, among other spots. Her last visit was 15 years ago.

At Black Point, the eastern-most point of land on the island, she saw where waters had reclaimed 20 feet of the island through the years.

Jewell visited a research center where thousands of artifacts are still being restored. More than 1 million artifacts — pipe stems, ceramic cookware, silver settings — were damaged.

"Eleven years and you're still battling mold," Jewell said to Melanie A. Pereira, the curator.

Jewell's tour concluded with a roundtable discussion by climate scientists.

WIRED WORLD



PHOTOS BY KYNDELL HARKNESS, MINNEAPOLIS STAR TRIBUNE/MCT

Above: Dan Sullivan, founder of Zivix, holds an opened-up model of the JamStik, an instrument that mimics a guitar and connects wirelessly to a computer. Below right: The arcade portion of JamStik's tutorial is displayed.

With JamStik, you can make music on the iPad

By STEVE ALEXANDER
(Minneapolis) Star Tribune

Zivix is in the musical instrument business, but not the sort of instrument you've seen before.

When the 14-employee Minneapolis startup launches its \$300 JamStik this month — through retail stores it declined to identify — the only question may be how to classify the product. The JamStik is a battery-powered, guitar-like instrument that can be considered an amateur music tutorial, an iPad entertainment accessory or a professional musician's songwriting companion.

"We want to make music more accessible," said Chad Koehler, vice president of business development and operations for the 8-year-old firm, which has so far privately raised \$4 million for product development. "We're trying to make the experience of learning to play more engaging."

While the JamStik resembles a 15-inch-long electric guitar, it's not. It has strings and frets like a guitar, but makes no audible sound. Instead, it uses electronic sensors to track the vibration of its strings and the movements of a person's fingers above them, then sends those digital signals via Wi-Fi to an iPhone, iPad, Windows PC or Apple Macintosh. There the JamStik's digital signals are played as music.

As a result of software manipulation of the signals, the music could sound like a variety of instruments, such as a guitar, a horn section or a piano.

The teaching is embedded in Zivix's own educational apps that cause an iPhone, iPad or computer screen to display different graphics depending on the player's goals. Those learning to play the guitar will see an image of the actual positions of their fingers suspended over the strings and frets, along with tips on how to correct any mistakes.

Those wanting to practice will see a screen similar to that of the Xbox 360 game "Guitar Hero," although JamStik emphasizes playing real notes instead of pushing Guitar Hero's colored buttons. Professional musicians can see the notes and chords they've played converted into standard musical notation for guitar, a shortcut in the work of

songwriting.

Popular Science magazine named JamStik one of its top 10 inventions of the year in 2013, mostly based on the way it teaches amateurs how to play the guitar. But Chris Heille, the Zivix music product specialist, said it's more than that.

"JamStik blurs the line between what's educational and what's entertainment," Heille said.

To do that, Zivix has developed a simplified way of linking musical instruments to iPhones, iPads and computers, said Dan Sullivan, the Zivix president and chief technology officer, and the JamStik's inventor.

Until now, connecting real electric guitars to those devices required intermediary gadgets using the Musical Instrument Digital Interface, or MIDI, such as the currently available Fishman TriplePlay wireless guitar controller, Roland GK Pickup or Line 6 MIDI Mobilizer.

"You needed specialized hardware before," Sullivan said.

"But the JamStik can work directly with lots of low-cost apps on the iPad." Among those apps are Apple's well-known GarageBand software, Koehler said.

The product also has a convenience factor. "Right now, there's not another guitar product that connects to the iPad wirelessly," Heille said. "And we're offering a 15-inch device that you can put in a bag with an iPad."

The price is designed to promote that

Guitar on the go

take-it-with-you attitude, said Ed Cannon, the CEO. "You might not want to take your \$3,000 guitar with you on an airplane, but you wouldn't mind taking a \$300 device like JamStik."

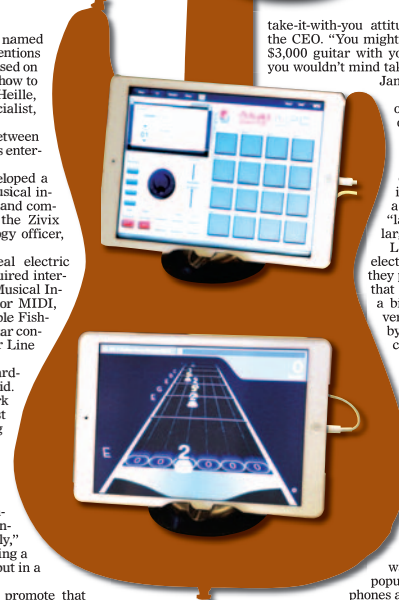
Musicians at all levels of skill may notice one other thing: The maddening fraction-of-a-second delays between when a note is played on a guitar and when it becomes audible on a computer — called "latency" — have been largely eliminated.

Latency exists for real electric guitars because they produce analog signals that are inevitably slowed a bit when they are converted to digital signals by an iPhone, iPad or computer.

The JamStik does it faster because, rather than convert analog signals to digital, it uses infrared light to sense finger motion, Sullivan said.

"We can detect finger motion before the finger touches the string, and that's the difference," he said.

In the end, the Zivix strategy is to ride the wave of mobile device popularity caused by smartphones and tablet computers.



AMERICAN ROUNDUP

Sleeping girl hit by stray bullet in bedroom

NJ WINSLOW TOWNSHIP — Authorities said a sleeping New Jersey teenager was shot when gunfire erupted outside her home and a bullet pierced her bedroom wall, authorities said.

Tiya Hudson, 13, was struck in the buttocks around 12:45 a.m. Monday. Her injuries were not considered life-threatening.

Her mother, Betty Hudson, said the shooting makes it hard to feel safe at home.

"We're not at the wrong place at the wrong time," she told WPVI-TV in Philadelphia. "We're home in bed and something like this happens."

No arrests have been made.

Manure spreaders squeezed for time

ND BISMARCK — A combination of long winters and more late-season crops in the Dakotas is presenting challenges for people in the manure-spreading business.

Manure spreaders typically start in the spring once the ground thaws, spreading the fertilizer until crops are planted. They pick up again after harvest, until the ground freezes again.

Farmers in the Dakotas have been planting more late-season crops such as corn and soybeans in recent years because of high market prices. That and recent long winters mean manure spreaders have had far less time to do their work. The Bismarck Tribune reported.

Dale Reindel, owner of Roughrider Manure Spreading in Dickinson, said that when manure spreaders can get in the field nowadays, it's "just go, go, go."

Bicycle tossed from 5th floor injures officer

NY NEW YORK — A New York City police officer suffered serious injuries when he was struck by a child's bike hurled from the fifth floor of an apartment building.

The officer was responding to a man firing a gun in Brooklyn around 2 a.m. Sunday when someone began tossing debris from a balcony at 959 Saint Mark's Ave.

Police said the bike was thrown from a window or balcony of the building. The officer was taken to a hospital where he was listed in stable condition.

According to the Daily News, police arrested the individual firing the shots. A second person was taken into custody but it wasn't immediately clear if either was the person who tossed the bike.

Fleeing robbery suspect jumps off bridge

PA PITTSBURGH — Police said a robbery suspect jumped off a downtown Pittsburgh bridge in an attempt to elude officers, but was caught anyway.

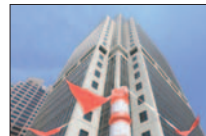
Officials said Evan Thornton, 27, jumped off the 10th Street

THE CENSUS

\$60M

pay workers' compensation claims and settle lawsuits from fed-up employees. Board of Equalization officials say the constant problems damage morale and undermine productivity.

The cost of repairs to date of a troubled state office building in Sacramento, Calif. Lawmakers are considering a way to move workers out of the 24-story Board of Equalization, which has been plagued with problems including panes of glass popping out and crashing to the sidewalk, elevators stalling and corroding pipes damaging the building's water system since its 1993 opening. Along with the repairs, taxpayers have shelled out \$2.3 million to



MATT SMITH, THE (LEHIGH VALLEY, PA.) EXPRESS-TIME/AP

Nice day for a spin

Isabella Mendez, left, 3, and her cousin C.J. Stumpf, 5, are spun on a merry-go-round at Hanover Township Municipal Park, Pa.

bridge shortly after midnight after police responded to a report of a robbery.

A search team later spotted Thornton about 15 yards from the shore in the Monongahela River and took him into custody about 3:30 a.m. One officer broke his ankle during the search. Thornton complained of leg and back pain and was taken to Allegheny General Hospital before going to the Allegheny County Jail on an outstanding warrant.

Thornton is charged with a single felony count of robbery.

Machete-bearing man stabs K9 during chase

AK ANCHORAGE — An Anchorage police dog is expected to survive after he was stabbed by a suspect during a chase early Saturday.

Police arrested Nole Hommerding, 37, and booked him into jail on charges of harming a police dog, assault, resisting arrest

and disorderly conduct.

The attack on the dog came after police responded to a fight between two men in the Mountain View neighborhood. Police said Hommerding had a machete and took him into custody about 3:30 a.m. One officer broke his ankle during the search. Thornton complained of leg and back pain and was taken to Allegheny General Hospital before going to the Allegheny County Jail on an outstanding warrant.

Police said the dog bit onto Hommerding to apprehend him, and that's when the man stabbed the animal. Officers subdued the suspect with a Taser.

One officer suffered minor injuries. The dog underwent surgery for three stab wounds.

Woman stole \$25,000 from Toys for Tots

IL CHICAGO — A Chicago woman pleaded guilty to stealing more than \$25,000 from Toys for Tots.

Carol Liscandrello, 55, was a volunteer with the charity, which provides gifts for children during

the holiday season.

From 2009-11, she was involved with online sales of merchandise to raise money for the organization.

Cook County prosecutors said that over a period of two years, the woman moved the money over to a personal debit card instead of transferring it into a Toys for Tots checking account.

She pleaded guilty Thursday at the Bridgeview Courthouse and was sentenced to probation. She was also ordered to pay full restitution.

Cook County State's Attorney Anita Alvarez called it "an unconscionable crime."

Police officer hauls wife to victory in race

WI MONONA — The eighth annual Wisconsin Wife Carry Championship Race was a big hit again this year, especially for Jon Fenrick, of Middleton.

The 29-year-old Monona police

officer captured the title Friday after he slung his 103-pound wife over his shoulders and completed the obstacle course in a minute flat.

With the victory he takes home \$525 — plus his wife's weight in beer, the Wisconsin State Journal reported.

More than a dozen couples competed in front of hundreds of cheering fans.

The course challenges runners to slog 850 feet through tires, bales of hay and a water pit. It took Fenrick only 60 seconds to complete the course, but he said it was the longest minute of his life.

"Absolutely, without a doubt," he said. "This is awesome."

His wife, Angie, weighs 103 pounds, 2 pounds under the required minimum weight of 105, but the couple wasn't penalized. Their prize was \$5 for every pound, based on her weight being 105 pounds, as well as her weight in beer — five cases' worth.

From wire reports

FACES

'Conan' makes strong debut in China

Conan O'Brien's late-night talk show, "Conan," has racked up more than 3 million hits since its debut less than two weeks ago on an online video site in China.

The comedy show, which features celebrity interviews, is available on the website of Sohu Video, a unit of Chinese online media group and Nasdaq-listed Sohu.com Inc., the company said Tuesday.

The show is accompanied with Chinese subtitles.

Like other Chinese online video sites, Sohu licenses many hit American TV shows, including the late-night comedy sketch show "Saturday Night Live" and Ellen DeGeneres' talk show.

Online video is not as heavily regulated as television in China, so it has more freedom to show dramas and comedies from other countries.

From The Associated Press

Conan O'Brien's show has racked up more than 3 million hits since its debut on a Chinese website.

AP

Harry Potter back in new Rowling story

Harry Potter is back — mysterious, married and going gray.

J.K. Rowling has given fans a glimpse of the grown-up boy wizard in a new story posted Tuesday on her Pottermore website.

It's the first update since "Harry Potter and the Deathly Hallows" was published in 2007, but Rowling spokesman Mark Hutchinson said there are "no plans" for a new Potter novel.

The 1,500-word story describes Harry, about to turn 34, attending the final of the Quidditch World Cup with his family and old friends Ron and Hermione.

Harry now has "threads of silver" in his hair and a mysterious cut on his cheekbone, related to his "top secret" work as an evil-battling Auror.

The story is written in the style of a gossip column for the Daily Prophet by reporter Rita Skeeter, a minor character in the novels.

The style allows Rowling to poke fun at the tabloid press, a real-life bugbear that she has accused of invading her privacy and that of her family.

Rowling has long said that "Deathly Hallows" would be the last Potter novel, but has produced other Potter-related material, including the spinoff story collection "The Tales of Beedle the Bard."

Rowling has also published a novel for adults, "The Cuckoo's Nest," and two detective thrillers under the pseudonym Robert Galbraith.

From The Associated Press



BY KRISTIN M. HALL
The Associated Press

When Jason Brown came to Nashville to start his career as the country artist Colt Ford, he couldn't find songwriters who would write for his singing style.

No surprise. Ford was bringing an unlikely mix to town: country rap, combining hip-hop beats and rhythms with country-themed rap or spoken-word lyrics.

"You might have found a song that you could have altered or changed a little bit," Ford said, "but you wouldn't have been able to find a record in that style."

But after country star Jason Aldean tried his hand at rapping on one of Ford's songs and turned it into one of the biggest hits of Aldean's career, songwriters, producers and mainstream country artists are now eager to work with him to figure out the key to this hot new sound in country music.

Still, Ford has never had his own Top 40 radio hit, even as his last album in 2012 debuted at No. 1 on Billboard's country album chart.

"That might sound change. His new album, 'Thanks For Listening,' released July 1, features a very radio-friendly duet with Keith Urban called 'She's Like.'"

"When I hear what's going on in mainstream radio, I go, 'Well, why can't you play me? You play the other stuff that is exactly what I do,'" Ford said. "That's frustrating to me."

The country radio format now leans heavily toward 18-to-35-year-olds who grew up in the hip-hop boom of the late '80s through early '90s, says Clay Hunnicutt, Clear Channel's executive vice president of national programming and country brand manager.

It might be one thing for a country song to be remixed or for a country artist to dabble in hip hop, but "rap" still faces a bias.

"I think rap gets treated like a dirty word," Hunnicutt said. "To me, Jason Aldean doing 'Dirt Road Anthem' is not rap."

It's a different way of doing the song, and it's a different way of lyrically delivering it."

However, he says country radio stations also have to weigh regional and local tastes for a now much broader range of country music.

"If it's a hit song, it will get on the radio regardless of who is singing it," Hunnicutt said. "They are pushing the envelope. Maybe they are a little ahead of their time and how far you want to go with that, but they are doing their thing and being very successful."

Even without mainstream radio hits, the blend of rap and country elements has caught on through other outlets. Big Smo, a country rapper whose debut album on Warner Bros. landed in the Top 10 of both Billboard's rap and country charts in June, developed his own fan base, nicknamed "kinfoke," with homemade YouTube videos shot on his family's farm in Unionville, Tenn.

Big Smo, whose real name is John Smith, raps about working-class lives in small Southern towns — virtually interchangeable lyrics with the current top country songs.

He sees the trend of mainstream country artists exploring rap styles as a positive move for performers like him who are trying to break through on that sound.

"Timing is very important when it comes to things like entertainment because you have to have a mood set among the masses," Big Smo said. "I got very fortunate with my timing."

Big Smo is also tapping into another related demographic with his A&E reality show, "Big Smo." Just as "Duck Dynasty" and "Here Comes Honey Boo Boo" capitalized on a growing interest in middle-class families versus celebrity culture, Big Smo's show focuses on his friends, his family and their involvement in his growing music career.

And he's winning over critics one song and one episode at a time.

"That's why radio is going to have a hard time saying no to this new genre of music," Big Smo said. "Because people want to hear it. And it's the same with the TV show."

Other news

■ **Idina Menzel** is bringing Broadway to baseball. The Tony-winning performer will sing the national anthem at the MLB All-Star Game on July 15 in Minneapolis. Menzel also will perform during the pregame ceremony, including a cover of Bob Dylan's "Forever Young." The game at Target Field will air on Fox, where country singer Joe Nichols will sing "God Bless America."

■ **Madonna** turned up for jury duty Monday at a New York City courthouse. The singer was dismissed within two hours. She spent the time in a clerk's office instead of in the sprawling juror waiting room. According to court system spokesman David Bookstaver, she was dismissed because there were plenty of prospective jurors for the day's needs. They also didn't want her presence to create a distraction. He said her appearance "really goes to show that everyone gets called."

■ **Jackson Browne**, Loretta Lynn, conjunto musician Flaco Jimenez and blues musician Taj Mahal will receive lifetime achievement awards at The Americana Music Association Honors and Awards ceremony in Nashville in September.

■ A new **Pink Floyd** album is on the way — 20 years after the band last released new material. Spokesman Doug Wright confirmed Monday that "The Endless River" will be released in October. It's described as consisting of "mainly ambient and instrumental music" based on 1993-94 recording sessions for the group's 13th album, "The Division Bell." "The Endless River" features David Gilmour, Nick Mason and Richard Wright, who died in 2008. Roger Waters, who left the group in 1985, is not involved.

■ Shock rocker **Alice Cooper** is shooing a fan of White Castle sliders that he showed up at the company headquarters in Columbus, Ohio, on Monday to be inducted into the restaurant's Craver Hall of Fame. The Columbus Dispatch reports that the 66-year-old rock legend whose real name is Vincent Furnier, told about 250 people gathered at the restaurant's headquarters stories about his father sharing little square burgers with him when he was a kid.

■ Former Republican vice presidential candidate and Alaska ex-governor **Sarah Palin** is getting another term on TV. The Sportsman Channel said Monday that Palin's series, "Amazing America," is being renewed for a second season that will start early next year.

■ A second Chinese company said it will sue the producers of "Transformers: Age of Extinction" for breach of contract. Huang Daosheng, the general manager of Chongqing Wulong Karst Tourism Co. Ltd., said Monday that Paramount Pictures and a Beijing-based producer failed to show its logo in the movie as promised, according to state media reports. Last month, a Beijing developer said it had filed a suit alleging that Paramount and two Chinese associates failed to deliver pledged money, said the developer and Paramount said they had smoothed out the dispute.

From The Associated Press

Stripes

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BUSINESS/WEATHER

4 in 10 US homes don't have landlines

By Mike Stobbe
The Associated Press

ATLANTA — More American households are ditching their old telephones. Four out of 10 use only cellphones, a government survey shows.

That's twice the rate from just five years ago, although the pace of dumping landlines seems to have slowed down in recent years.

The Centers for Disease Control and Prevention has been tracking phone use for a decade, and the number of households using only cellphones had been rising by about 5 percentage points each year.

Lately, the increases have been smaller, and last year it went up only 3 percentage points to 41 percent of U.S. homes.

Why the slight leveling off? Experts could only speculate. The lead researcher on the CDC report, Stephen Blumberg, said it could be people are holding onto their landlines because it is part of their Internet and cable TV package.

SURVEY: MORE AMERICANS RELYING ON CELLPHONES

Among the results of the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention survey on cellphone use, researchers found:

- Not all homes have phones: About 3 percent have no landline or cellphone.
- About 9 percent have only landlines, and about 48 percent have both. Five years ago, 17 percent had only landlines, and about 60 percent had landlines and cellphones.

Or it could mean that we're hitting a ceiling for those people willing to completely abandon landlines, said John Palmer, a researcher at the Autonomous University in Barcelona, Spain, who was not involved in the report.

Some non-experts were surprised to hear that the change has slowed down a bit.

"We switched to only cellphones three years ago. The only time we would get calls on the landline was from telemarketers," said Justin Hodowanec, 18, a college freshman

from Atlanta.

Dan Warhola, 34, said he had a landline at his Columbus, Ohio, home but only because his security system was tied into it years ago when he bought his house.

"I couldn't even tell you what my (landline) phone number is," said Warhola, standing at baggage claim at Atlanta's Hartsfield-Jackson International Airport.

The CDC survey released Tuesday is based on in-person interviews in more than 21,000 homes during the last half of 2013.

■ Younger people rely more on cellphones: Nearly two-thirds of people in their late 20s live in households with only cellphones. Only 14 percent of people 65 and older use only cellphones.

■ Men are a bit more likely to shun landlines than women.

■ Poor adults are much more likely than higher-income people to have only cellphones.

— Mike Stobbe

MARKET WATCH

July 7, 2014

Dow Jones Industrials	-44.05
Nasdaq composite	-34.40
Standard & Poor's 500	-7.79
Russell 2000	-21.41
	1,186.74

EXCHANGE RATES

Military rates	
Euro costs (July 9)	\$1.3945
Dollar buys (July 9)	€0.7171
British pound (July 9)	\$1.75
Japanese yen (July 9)	100.00
South Korean won (July 9)	986.00
Commercial rates	
Bahrain (Dinar)	0.3771
British pound	\$1.7124
Canada (dollar)	1.0678
China (Yuan)	6.2010
Denmark (Krone)	6.4761
Euro (Euro)	7.1151
Euro	\$1.3615/1.7345
Hong Kong (dollar)	227.27
Hungary (Forint)	3.4302
Israel (Sheqel)	101.53
Japan (Yen)	0.2820
Kuwait (Dinar)	6.1751
Norway (Krone)	43.49
Philippines (Peso)	3.04
Poland (Zloty)	3.7506
Saudi Arabia (Riyal)	1.2424
Singapore (Dollar)	1.0123
South Korea (Won)	0.8924
Switzerland (Franc)	32.39
Thailand (Baht)	12.1270
Turkey (Lira)	12.1270

(Military exchange rates are those available to customers at military banking facilities in the country of issuance for Japan, South Korea, Germany, the Netherlands and the United Kingdom. For nonlocal currency exchange rates (i.e., non-UK British pounds in Germany), check with your local military banking facility. Commercial rates are interbank rates provided for reference when buying currency. All figures are foreign currencies to one dollar, except for the British pound, which is represented in dollars-to-pound, and the euro, which is dollars-to-euro.)

INTEREST RATES

Prime rate	3.25
3-month bill	73.60
Federal funds market rate	0.09
3-month bill	0.01
30-year bond	3.47

WEATHER OUTLOOK

WEDNESDAY IN THE MIDDLE EAST



WEDNESDAY IN EUROPE



THURSDAY IN THE PACIFIC



The weather is provided by the American Forces Network Weather Center, 2nd Weather Squadron at Offutt Air Force Base, Neb.

Wednesday's US temperatures

City	Hi	Lo	Wthr	City	Hi	Lo	Wthr	City	Hi	Lo	Wthr	City	Hi	Lo	Wthr
Able, Texas	96	73	Pdly	Chattanooga	87	72	Rain	Fort Wayne	77	62	Pdly	Louisville	86	69	Pdly
Akron, Ohio	78	62	Cldy	Cheyenne	85	54	Pdly	Fresno	103	70	Cldy	Lubbock	91	67	Pdly
Albany, N.Y.	68	58	Pdly	Chicago	78	63	Pdly	Goodland	90	61	Pdly	Macon	94	69	Pdly
Albuquerque	89	69	Cldy	Cincinnati	82	65	Cldy	Grand Junction	93	69	Pdly	Medford	98	65	Pdly
Allentown, Pa.	87	68	Cldy	Cleveland	79	62	Cldy	Great Falls	90	58	Cldy	Memphis	85	73	Rain
Amarillo	90	66	Pdly	Colorado Springs	88	56	Cldy	Green Bay	71	55	Pdly	Miami Beach	89	76	Rain
Anchorage	60	55	Rain	Columbia, S.C.	96	74	Pdly	Greensboro, N.C.	71	52	Cldy	Milwaukee	71	58	Cldy
Asheville	81	66	Cldy	Columbus, Ga.	91	72	Pdly	Hartford	88	70	Cldy	Minneapolis	77	59	Cldy
Atlanta	88	71	Rain	Concord, N.H.	86	66	Cldy	Harrisburg	90	61	Pdly	Missoula	93	56	Pdly
Atlantic City	91	75	Rain	Corpus Christi	94	76	Pdly	Helena	88	75	Pdly	Monterey	92	71	Pdly
Aurora	89	73	Cldy	Dallas-Ft. Worth	97	78	Pdly	Honolulu	88	75	Pdly	Nashville	87	69	Rain
Baltimore	89	73	Cldy	Dayton	80	65	Cldy	Houston	93	75	Pdly	New Orleans	91	76	Cldy
Baton Rouge	92	73	Pdly	Daytona Beach	91	75	Cldy	Huntsville	85	73	Rain	New York City	88	73	Cldy
Bilings	96	57	Pdly	Denver	91	60	Cldy	Indianapolis	89	63	Pdly	Newark	88	74	Cldy
Birmingham	88	73	Rain	Des Moines	80	61	Cldy	Jackson, Miss.	92	72	Pdly	Norfolk, Va.	95	77	Pdly
Bismarck	83	55	Cldy	Detroit	77	61	Pdly	Jacksonville	92	74	Cldy	North Platte	88	57	Cldy
Boise	97	71	Pdly	Duluth	72	51	Cldy	Juneau	69	50	Rain	Omaha	83	61	Cldy
Boston	87	73	Cldy	El Paso	95	75	Cldy	Kansas City	85	63	Cldy	Orlando	93	74	Rain
Bridgeport	88	71	Cldy	Elkins	79	63	Cldy	Key West	90	62	Pdly	Paderborn	86	69	Pdly
Brownsville	93	78	Cldy	Erie	75	64	Cldy	Knoxville	87	72	Rain	Pendleton	96	78	Cldy
Buffalo	75	62	Pdly	Eugene	88	57	Cldy	Lake Charles	90	75	Pdly	Pesca	90	75	Cldy
Burlington, Vt.	80	64	Rain	Evansville	84	67	Cldy	Lansing	73	57	Pdly	Phoenix	102	84	Cldy
Caribou, Maine	81	64	Rain	Fairbanks	71	56	Cldy	Las Vegas	105	85	Cldy	Pittsburgh	79	64	Cldy
Charleston, S.C.	92	53	Pdly	Fargo	77	54	Cldy	Lexington	84	67	Pdly				
Charleston, W. Va.	94	75	Pdly	Flagstaff	78	53	Rain	Lincoln	85	60	Cldy				
Charlotte, N.C.	94	69	Cldy	Flint	73	56	Cldy	Little Rock	89	73	Cldy				
				Fort Smith	90	72	Pdly	Los Angeles	82	65	Pdly				

Today's Cryptoquip Clue: W equals T

OLYMPICS/SOCCER

Trio makes 2022 Games cut

By STEPHEN WILSON
The Associated Press

LAUSANNE, Switzerland — As the IOC sought to dispel concerns the Olympics are too expensive, two former host cities and one former also-ran advanced to the final phase Monday in the troubled race for the 2022 Winter Games.

Left with little choice following the previous withdrawal of three candidates, the International Olympic Committee on Monday retained the three cities that we still alive.

The Kazakh city of Almaty, Beijing and Oslo made the list of finalists. Whether Oslo stays in until next year's vote remains uncertain.

The IOC executive board agreed unanimously to approve all three as official candidate cities, rather than cut the field.

"Three is a good number to go forward," IOC vice president John Coates said.

The candidates must submit their detailed bid files to the IOC by Jan. 7. A panel of experts will then visit the cities next February and March, and the full IOC will decide the winner on July 31, 2015, in Kuala Lumpur, Malaysia.

An IOC working group report released Monday gave Oslo the highest technical ratings. The Norwegian capital led in eight of the 14 categories and was tied with Beijing in three. Almaty was last in 11. Oslo hosted the 1952 Winter Olympics, and Norway held the 1994 Games in Lillehammer. Beijing, which staged the 2008 Olympics, is seeking to become the first city to host both summer and winter Games. Almaty bid for the 2014 Winter Games, but failed to make the final short list.

"The IOC is very happy to see three very different approaches," IOC President Thomas Bach said. "This gives the IOC a choice among three diverse bids with different legacy plans, with different ap-

proaches, with different budgets."

Bach said the IOC will contribute about \$750 million to the host city and expressed confidence that local organizers will break even or make a profit.

He cited a projected \$200 million surplus for Russian organizers from February's Winter Olympics in Sochi on their \$2 billion operating budget, which covers Games costs only.

However, potential host cities — especially in Western Europe — have been scared off by the overall \$51 billion price tag for the Sochi Games, even though Russia spent much of that record sum on long-term infrastructure projects. Bach said the IOC must do better in explaining the different budgets.

The 2022 bid race began with six cities, but has been cut in half by the withdrawals of Stockholm; Krakow, Poland; and Lviv, Ukraine. Earlier, potential bids from Switzerland and Germany were abandoned when voters said no in referendums.

In an unusually blunt admission, a top IOC official said the organization was to blame for not better explaining the financing of the games.

"That's the lesson from this campaign here — we lost good cities because of the bad perception of the IOC, the bad perception of how the concept could be done," IOC executive director Gilbert Felli said. "We have to learn our lesson. The one to be blamed is the IOC."

Lviv dropped out a week ago amid the continuing political turmoil in Ukraine. Krakow pulled out in May after Polish voters rejected the bid by a 70 percent margin. Stockholm withdrew in January after Swedish politicians refused to give the bid financial backing.

The Norwegian government will decide this autumn whether to back the Oslo bid. The IOC report cited two recent polls showing only 36 percent of Norwegians support the project.



TED S. WARREN/AP

Seattle Sounders FC's DeAndre Yedlin rejoined his MLS team after playing on the U.S. Men's National Team in the World Cup. Italian newspapers reported a pending deal that would see the 20-year-old defender move to AS Roma in 2015.

Yedlin's European interest growing

US defender draws attention with Cup debut

By ASHLEY SCOBY
The Seattle Times

DeAndre Yedlin is back in Seattle. But nobody can promise how long.

The 20-year-old impressed many, even in a backup role, on the U.S. men's national team at the World Cup. The peak of that attention came in the Round of 16 match against Belgium, when Yedlin came in for injured Fabian Johnson and played most of the game. Soon after returning home, Yedlin appeared on "SportsCenter," "Good Morning America," and the "Today" Show.

Yedlin's star power exploded. Now, according to a statement released by Sounders general manager Adrian Hanauer, there is "lots of interest for him from leagues around the world." La Gazzetta dello Sport, an Italian newspaper, reported that a deal had been virtually finalized to send Yedlin to AS Roma after the Sounders' season concluded.

Yedlin currently makes a base salary of \$80,000 a year with guaranteed compensation of \$92,000.

But Yedlin said all the questions of where he'll end up aren't ones he's thinking about yet.

"I'm kind of letting my representatives take care of that right now, and they'll obviously get back to me on that information," he said at Mon's press conference, his first since returning to the country. "Right now I'm just focused on Seattle, focused on hopefully winning the MLS Cup and just looking to come back and do well."

Yedlin said playing in Europe had always been his goal. But his quick rise up the ranks, thanks to his World Cup performance,

might have changed his trajectory. Where those changes might lead him is unknown.

"That's obviously been my goal since I was a little kid, so that was a big one," he said. "But now I think I almost have to make new goals and re-evaluate and see where I want to be in the next year, next six months."

That re-evaluation process will include his "Big support system" here in the U.S., including Sounders coach Sigi Schmid.

Schmid said while watching the U.S.-Belgium match, it crossed his mind that Seattle might not be able to keep Yedlin for long.

With potential international opportunities swirling, Schmid said Yedlin will have to use his maturity and his trusted network to make a decision.

"I told him, he's got to talk to people that he trusts, feels comfortable with, and get the information that he needs to make a decision," Schmid said. "But right now, his focus is on our game Wednesday and on our game Sunday."

Yedlin's agent, Chris Megaloudis, also noted that the player was still a Sounder, but there was a window for that to change.

Whether those explorations are now, or years in the future, Schmid said that once a player hits a certain talent level, sometimes opportunities overseas are simply better.

"It's like, why does Paul Gasol play in the NBA? Why does (Mantu) Ginobili play in the NBA?" he said. "Because the league (NBA) is better than their leagues in their home countries. There's going to be certain players where it's the right thing to do, is to go overseas."

Cup success lifts Rio's confidence

By STEPHEN WILSON
The Associated Press

LAUSANNE, Switzerland — The smooth running of the World Cup has lifted the mood of Brazilians and given them the confidence to overcome delays and deliver the 2016 Olympics in Rio de Janeiro on time, the IOC's point man on the Games said Tuesday.

In an exclusive interview with The Associated Press, IOC executive director Gilbert Felli said the situation has improved since he was dispatched as a special troubleshooter for Rio two months ago. He said there is no reason to panic and that Brazilian organizers will complete the mountain of work still needed over the next two years — with constant monitoring.

Speaking in his office at the International Olympic Committee headquarters in Lausanne, Felli said there are no plans to move the venues, as sports federations had feared, and he predicted that most construction projects will be on schedule by the end of September.

"Of course it remains tense, very tense, but we should look with more optimism," Felli said in his first extensive interview since being handed the Rio assignment in April. "Until the Games are delivered I'm always concerned. But it's not the case to say we're not going to make it. ... My view is we will make it and the Brazilians will deliver excellent Games. But we have to work every day for it. Nothing is a done deal."

While serious concerns remain



LEO CORREA/AP

Rio's Maracana Stadium will have hosted seven 2014 World Cup matches, including the Sunday closing ceremony. The smooth running of the tournament has given the IOC confidence that Rio can overcome its issues and deliver a strong 2016 Games.

over tight deadlines, the shortage of hotel rooms and severe water pollution at the sailing venue, Felli said the World Cup has instilled a new sense of optimism in Brazil about organizing the first Olympics in South America.

"The perception of the World Cup is that it's positive," he said. "We can see the reverse of the mood of the Brazilians about the World Cup. ... The perception of the Brazilians is much more positive. It's good for the Games. They have better trust in themselves to deliver the games."

The buildup to the World Cup was also plagued by chronic delays, with some stadiums barely completed at the last minute. But since the tournament began, there has been no major organizational crisis.

"The risk is that they say, 'You see, no problem, don't worry because we did it,'" Felli said, adding Rio Mayor Eduardo Paes is determined not to fall into that trap.

Felli said Paes told him: "I don't want to be last minute to deliver the Games. I got my lesson about the perception of the people about the World Cup. I don't want to be in this situation. I want to be ready before."

Felli was assigned by the IOC to tackle the Rio crisis after a meeting in April in which nearly 20 summer sports federations publicly voiced serious concerns over the delays. A special IOC task force was also formed.

"Personally I didn't believe it was as bad as some have said," Felli said. "I was not as alarmed."

WORLD CUP

Top dribblers set to face off in semifinal

Netherlands' Robben, Argentina's Messi can alter play with blistering attacks on offense

By MIKE CORDER
The Associated Press

RIO DE JANEIRO — The World Cup's best dribblers — Lionel Messi and Arjen Robben — face off when Argentina and Netherlands meet in the semifinals.

In Brazil, Robben has been quick, Messi has been quicksilver.

On Wednesday in Sao Paulo, either one could turn the semifinal with a dazzling turn of pace or a weaving run to propel his team to the final.

"We have to cut the supply line to Messi," Dutch defender Bruno Martins Indi told Dutch website Nu.nl.

The Barcelona star led Argentina through the group stage with four goals. He has also made 180 passes in his five matches so far.

The Dutch have shared the goal-scoring duties more evenly — Robben and Robin van Persie each have three, Memphis Depay has two of the team's total of 12 — but the Bayern Munich winger's scintillating sprints with the ball have often been the highlights of Oranje matches.

"We know that we will play against one of the best teams when it comes to counterattacks because of the speed of their men up front," Argentina midfielder Javier Mascherano said. "So we have to take precautions to not give them the possibility to counterattack, to always be well positioned, to not lose balls unnecessarily in areas where there's a lot of risk."

After scoring 10 times in group play, the Netherlands has managed only two in its two knock-out matches and the Dutch will be hoping captain Van Persie regains his touch in front of goal. He looked off the



Semifinals
Netherlands vs. Argentina
AFN-Sports
9:30 p.m. Wednesday CET
4:30 a.m. Thursday JKT

pace and missed an easy chance near the end of regulation time in the quarterfinal against Costa Rica.

The Netherlands will again be without their powerful midfield controller Nigel de Jong, who has a torn groin muscle. A possible replacement, Leroy Fer, is recovering from a hamstring injury and it is not clear if he will be fit for Wednesday's semifinal at the Itaquera Stadium.

Argentina will be without Real Madrid winger Angel Di Maria, who limped off in the first half of his country's quarterfinal win over Belgium with a right thigh injury, but striker Sergio Aguero has been declared fit after recovering from a similar problem.

Di Maria scored the extra-time winner against Switzerland in the second round and set up Gonzalo Higuain's winning goal in the first half against Belgium on Saturday.

"He's a good player, but we look at the whole team, not one player," Netherlands goalkeeper Jasper Cillessen said. "We're going to watch ... how Argentina plays.



FELIPE DANA/AP

The Netherlands' Arjen Robben, right, is one of the best dribblers in the World Cup. On Wednesday, he'll face the other — Argentina's Lionel Messi — in the semifinals.

We're going to make our plan to beat Argentina."

Whether that plan again could involve Cillessen being substituted a minute before a penalty shootout and replaced with the more physically imposing Tim Krul — as happened against Costa Rica — remains to be seen.

The move by tactical mastermind Louis van Gaal was the World Cup's most surprising substitution and one of its most effective as Krul stopped two penalties.

"We are ready for everything," Krul said. "Hopefully, we don't need it again against Argentina and we can do the job in 90 minutes."

The two sides have a long World Cup history, including one of the Netherlands'

most heart-breaking losses, in the 1978 final when Rob Rensenbrink's shot in the post shortly before full time with the score level at 1-1. Argentina went on to win 3-1 in extra time.

In 1998, the Dutch led by Guus Hiddink got a measure of revenge when Dennis Bergkamp's memorable goal knocked Argentina out in the quarterfinals in France.

Cillessen said beating Argentina in Sao Paulo would only be a step on the way to making amends for the 1978 final — one of three the Netherlands has lost, earning the Dutch the title of the best team never to win the World Cup.

"It would be revenge if we win the World Cup," Cillessen said. "But we have to wait for that. It's not a final. It's a semi."

Mascherano still Argentina's emotional leader

By KARL RITTER
The Associated Press



MARTIN MEISSNER/AP

Argentina's Javier Mascherano ceded the captain's armband to Lionel Messi in 2011, but is still considered the locker room leader.

BELO HORIZONTE, Brazil — Copa America, 2011: Argentina's Javier Mascherano hands the captain's armband to Lionel Messi after being sent off late in regulation time in the quarterfinal against Uruguay. Argentina loses the ensuing penalty shootout as the host nation is eliminated from the tournament.

Since that bitter moment, Messi has held on to the captaincy of Argentina, but Mascherano remains the inspirational voice in the locker room.

Known as "jefecito," or little boss, the 5-foot-6-inch defensive midfielder has fired up Argentina for what has become its best World Cup run since 1990.

"We're in a place where Argentina hasn't been for a long time," Mascherano said ahead of the team's semifinal against the Netherlands. "These opportunities come only so often and you can't let them go by."

Coach Alejandro Sabella decided to make Messi his permanent captain when he took charge after Argentina's Copa America exit. Mascherano, Messi's Barcelona

teammate who had worn the Argentina armband since 2008, took a step back without making a fuss — just as he does on the pitch.

A hard-tackling ball winner, Mascherano stays behind when Messi and Argentina's other attacking players surge forward.

His diligent work to recover possession just above the defensive line helps explain why Belgium's attack failed so emphatically in Argentina's 1-0 win in the quarterfinals.

"I think the word to use is intelligence," Mascherano said. "At this stage you play with heart and soul but you don't get anywhere if you're not intelligent in the tactical aspect, managing the game."

Clever though he may be, Mascherano has a tendency to lose his head in crucial moments, like he did in the 2011 Copa America.

While playing for Liverpool, he had the Premier League's worst disciplinary record in the 2009-2010 season.

In a highly unusual expulsion last year, he was sent off in a World Cup qualifier against Ecuador for kicking the driver off a medical cart as he was being wheeled off the pitch.

Mascherano so far has controlled his temper in Brazil and has no bookings heading into Wednesday's semifinal.

The 30-year-old's deep desire for Argentina to make an impact in the tournament is unmistakable. While many players speak dutifully about how it's time the country ends its long dry spell in international football, Mascherano says it like he means it.

Though he's the only player in the world who's won two Olympic gold medals — in 2004 and 2008 — he has also experienced agonizing defeats with the Albiceleste, including two Copa America final losses to archrival Brazil and a 4-0 quarterfinal mauling by Germany in the 2010 World Cup.

It was reported in Argentine media that Mascherano got the team pumped up before the Belgium game by saying he was "tired of eating dirt."

When a reporter asked him Sunday at Argentina's team base in Belo Horizonte whether that was true, Mascherano laughed, but didn't give a clear answer.

"I don't know where that came from," he said. "Obviously what's said in private stays private."

NBA



PHIL MASTURZO, AKRON BEACON JOURNAL/AP

The Miami Heat's LeBron James greets a young fan while on the way to an interview at his foundation's second annual "I Promise Family Reunion," in Akron, Ohio, on Aug. 10, 2013. As Cavaliers fans await a homecoming they never thought possible, the broken relationship between James and Dan Gilbert could get in the way. When James left Cleveland four years ago as a free agent to chase an NBA championship in Miami, Gilbert publicly attacked him, calling the superstar's departure "cowardly" and accusing him of quitting in playoff games. James went on to win two NBA championships with the Heat.

LeBron, Cavaliers' owner could mend fences, reunite

By TOM WITHERS
The Associated Press

There was no eye contact, nothing to indicate any reconciliation. The breakup of LeBron James and Cavaliers owner Dan Gilbert was beyond bitter. But now, as James considers a return to the team he abandoned four years ago with an entire region breathlessly awaiting a homecoming it couldn't imagine in its wildest dreams, it appears there has been some healing between the NBA superstar and his former boss.

Once aligned as basketball partners, James and Gilbert could barely stand the sight of each other during Miami's games in Cleveland the past four years. It was an intense standoff, awkward and seemingly irreparable.

Time may have fixed their relationship. Most of the rest of Cleveland has already forgiven him.

On Sunday, Cavs fans flocked to social media to feverishly track one of Gilbert's private jets as it flew to Fort Lauderdale, Fla., where the plane's occupants dodged reporters and TV cameras with some deception.

It's not known if Gilbert was on the jet — or if the trip was even NBA-related — but that didn't douse the free-agency firestorm.



TONY DEJAK/AP

Cleveland Cavaliers owner Dan Gilbert guaranteed the Cavs would win a title before LeBron James, a boast he later swallowed when James won his first title in the second year in Miami while the Cavs went 40-108 in two seasons without him.

As James' decision nears, there's a renewed hope the prodigal son will come home.

Tuesday was the four-year anniversary of announcing he was "taking my talents to South Beach" and the city is once again on hold. James is set to meet with Heat president Pat Riley, who was able to lure the four-time league MVP to Miami in 2010 but could be running out of time to convince

him to stay.

On Monday, the Heat announced they intend to sign free agents Danny Granger and Josh McRoberts when the league's moratorium ends later this week. Riley must hope those moves, and maybe another couple, are enough to keep James.

It was the same four years ago, when James ended his seven-year run in Cleveland by linking with All-Stars Dwyane Wade and Chris Bosh. The "Big 3" went on to win two titles and went to four straight NBA Finals, getting crushed by San Antonio this year.

On July 8, 2010, "The Decision" played out in a national TV spectacle and was a blow to the collective psyche of Cleveland. Fans here couldn't understand why James, Akron born and bred, would intentionally embarrass the people who say they loved him most.

In those early hours afterward, some Cleveland fans burned his No. 23 jersey in streets near where his larger-than-life figure towered on a building billboard. It was an ugly scene. But over the past few years, there has been some cooling between James and Cleveland.

The road has brought them to an unlikely crossroads: a possible reunion. When James left, the odds he would ever wear a Cavaliers uniform again appeared insurmountable. Four years later, there's a chance it could happen.

Hollins eager for 2nd shot with Nets

By BRIAN MAHONEY
The Associated Press

NEW YORK — Lionel Hollins isn't after power or prestige. Doesn't seem interested in fame and fortune.

"I'm very low maintenance and

I'm actually embarrassed, I drove up and saw the big billboard with my picture on it and I'm like, 'Come on,'" he said

Monday, referring to the front of Barclays Center in Brooklyn.

"But I just want to coach."

After a year away from it that he feared might turn into two, Hollins finally has another opportunity.

The Nets hired him last week to replace Jason Kidd, who left for the Milwaukee Bucks after his bid for more power within the team was denied. Hollins, who lost his job in Memphis and failed to land another one despite leading the Grizzlies to the Western Conference finals in his last season, suddenly ended up with a position he was considered for last year.

"As one gets older, you don't know if the opportunity's ever going to come back around again and to have this opportunity is truly a blessing," Hollins said. "And the way it came about is truly miracle-like and I'm very thankful."

Hollins guided the Grizzlies to a 56-26 record in 2012-13 but his contract wasn't renewed after Memphis lost to San Antonio in the West finals. He had since interviewed for jobs in Denver, Cleveland and Minnesota, plus both teams in Los Angeles.

The Nets never formally interviewed him last year, but general manager Billy King had done plenty of research before hiring Kidd. When he needed to conduct another coaching search after only one season, he turned quickly to Hollins, hiring him after they met twice last week.

King said Hollins' teams in Memphis reminded him of the Chicago Bulls under Tom

Thibodeau, remaining difficult to play even when they lost key players or to injuries.

"If you look at all his Memphis teams, they got better every year," King said. They played hard. When Rudy Gay got hurt, they continued to win. So didn't matter if players were in or out, they just played consistently and I think that's a testament to his system and how he coaches."

Yet the Grizzlies weren't interested in keeping him when they came under new ownership and management in Hollins' final season, even after he led them to a franchise-record 214 victories. So he's looking forward to building a good relationship with King, who will welcome that after an occasionally rocky year with Kidd before his departure.

"To have people over you that are on the same page, they're allowing you to focus solely on what you have to do, because it takes a lot of energy," Hollins said. "And it's important, it's important to have somebody that trusts your judgment and trusts what you say."

Hollins stayed busy during his year away, working in TV and radio and most importantly, getting some extra time with his family. He was there when his son, Austin, won most Most Outstanding Player honors after leading Minnesota to the NIT championship in April.

He was beginning to consider how he would spend another year out of coaching when he got the call from the Nets.

"Two Saturdays ago, this job wasn't open and I'm sitting at home waiting on the L.A. Lakers to make a decision, and if they make a decision the other way, I'm out of the league for another year again," Hollins said. "So it was right there on the verge."

Instead, he takes over a team that reached the second round of the playoffs, would have a strong core if Paul Pierce and Kevin Garnett return, and Brook Lopez and Deron Williams come back healthy after surgeries, and has the allure of a major market.



SETH WENIG/AP

Lionel Hollins speaks to the media Monday during a news conference at the Barclays Center in New York where he was introduced as the new head coach of the Brooklyn Nets.

SPORTS BRIEFS

Source: Frye, Magic agree to \$32M deal

The Associated Press

ORLANDO, Fla. — Forward Channing Frye has agreed to a four-year, \$32 million offer sheet to sign with the Orlando Magic on Monday, according to a person familiar with the deal.

Frye can fill leadership and scoring holes created by the recent jettisoning of guards Jameer Nelson and Arron Afflalo.

The person spoke on condition of anonymity because the deal can't be signed until July 10 under NBA free agency rules. Yahoo Sports was the first to report the agreement.

The 31-year-old Frye opted out of the \$6.8 million he would have made in the final year of his contract with Phoenix to become an unrestricted free agent.

The Magic have been getting younger each of the past three drafts under general manager Rob Hennigan. It has continued this offseason with Orlando trading Afflalo on draft night, and waiving Nelson last week.

Hennigan has said previously that he's wanted to have a balance of both youth and vets on the roster during their rebuilding process. The Magic currently have 11 players on their roster with three years or less experience.

In Frye, the Magic add both consistent scoring and a veteran presence back into the locker room to go along with that core of young players.

In other NBA news:

■ The Heat announced Monday that they intend to sign Danny Granger and Josh McRoberts when the NBA's moratorium on deals being formally struck ends later this week. McRoberts agreed to a four-year deal that starts at around \$5.3 million next season, said agent Mike Conley Sr., with Miami using its mid-level exception to get that contract done.

"He thinks it's a chance to do some special things," Conley Sr. said, adding that McRoberts has a player option for the final year of his Heat deal.

Yahoo Sports reported Granger agreed to a two-year deal, worth about \$2 million annually. Granger's agent, Aaron Mintz, did not immediately return messages seeking comment.



NFL

Concussion settlement without cap gets OK

Judge gives preliminary approval to plan to compensate ex-players with neurological issues

By MARYCLAIRE DALE
The Associated Press

A federal judge on Monday granted preliminary approval to a landmark deal that would compensate thousands of former NFL players for concussion-related claims.

The ruling by U.S. District Judge Anita Brody in Philadelphia came about two weeks after the NFL agreed to remove a \$675 million cap on damages. Brody had previously questioned whether that would be enough money to pay all claims.

"A class action settlement that offers prompt relief is superior to the likely alternative — years of expensive, difficult, and uncertain litigation, with no assurance of recovery, while retired players' physical and mental conditions continue to deteriorate," Brody wrote.

More than 4,500 former players have filed suit, some accusing the league of fraud for its handling of concussions. They include former Dallas Cowboys running back Tony Dorsett and Super Bowl-winning Chicago Bears quarterback Jim McMahon, who suffers from dementia.

The settlement is designed to last at least 65 years and give \$1 million or more to retirees who develop Lou Gehrig's disease and other profound neurological problems.



Ex-NFL player Jim McMahon holds a press conference with his girlfriend Laurie Navon in Chicago on June 17 regarding his struggle with early onset dementia. McMahon is one of more than 4,500 former players that filed suit against the NFL, some accusing the league of fraud for its handling of concussions.

JESSICA TEZAK, CHICAGO TRIBUNE/MCT

"This is an extraordinary settlement for retired NFL players and their families — from those who suffer with neuro-cognitive illnesses today, to those who are currently healthy but fear they may develop symptoms decades into the future," plaintiffs' attorneys Sol Weiss and Christopher Seeger said in a statement.

NFL senior vice president Anastasia Danias said in a statement that the league was "grateful to

Judge Brody for her guidance and her thoughtful analysis of the issues as reflected in the comprehensive opinion she issued today."

The original settlement included \$675 million for compensatory claims for players with neurological symptoms, \$75 million for baseline testing and \$10 million for medical research and education. The NFL would also pay an additional \$112 million to the

players' lawyers, for a total payout of more than \$870 million.

The revised settlement estimates the cap on overall damage claims but retains a payout formula for individual retirees that considers their age and illness. A young retiree with amyotrophic lateral sclerosis, or Lou Gehrig's disease, would receive \$5 million, a 50-year-old with Alzheimer's disease would get \$1.6 million and an 80-year-old with early de-

mentia would get \$25,000.

Even with the cap removed, both sides said they believe the NFL will spend no more than about \$675 million on damage claims by ex-players.

Critics of the deal have said the league, with annual revenues approaching \$10 billion, was getting off lightly. They could raise objections at a fairness hearing scheduled for Nov. 19, and ultimately opt out of the settlement.

However, they would then face the risk of a protracted legal fight, and would have to prove any injuries were caused by NFL concussions and not any suffered in youth or college sports. The proposed NFL settlement had originally barred claimants from seeking a separate settlement against the NCAA, but that clause has been removed. A separate lawsuit is pending against the NCAA in Illinois.

The settlement would be capped at \$4 million on behalf of players diagnosed with traumatic brain injury after their deaths, such as San Diego star Junior Seau or Pro Bowler Dave Duerson. Both of their families, through lawyers, have expressed concerns about the settlement.

Duerson died at age 50. A family lawyer has called their projected \$2.2 million award to the family "not adequate."

Paths: Changing team culture the top priority for new coaches

FROM BACK PAGE

"I would say no nonsense," said Pettine, who was the Buffalo Bills' defensive coordinator in 2013. "He has been nicknamed BFT: Blunt Force Trauma. The days are too short to dance around subjects and I think guys appreciate that."



Pettine

Mike Zimmer, Vikings: The teacher

Zimmer might be doing some yelling in Minnesota, but it will be in a constructive way. An outstanding defensive coach in Cincinnati since 2008, he was in the running for several jobs before landing the Vikings gig.

His forthright manner, confidence in his defensive schemes and tough love approach make him stand out from predecessor Leslie Frazier.

Most of all, Zimmer sees himself as an educator.

"I think one of the things of being a coach, you're a teacher," he said. "You're trying to teach them about techniques, you're trying to teach them about all the

different aspects of the game of football, not just offense or defense, but what the other side of the ball is thinking."

Jay Gruden, Redskins: Following his own lead

Gruden, the younger brother of ESPN analyst and 2003 Super Bowl-winning coach Jon Gruden, was Zimmer's alter ego in Cincinnati.

Gruden ran the Bengals' offense, and when Washington decided to replace Mike Shanahan, it sought someone who could design an attack around Robert Griffin III, while also protecting the 2012 Offensive Rookie of the Year.

Nearly everything had fallen apart in the nation's capital last year, one season removed from an AFC East title. Perhaps most damaging was the fractured relationship between veteran coach and dynamic quarterback.

So Gruden is charged with fixing things on the field and off it.

"I'm not going to try to do something that Shanahan didn't, or not do something that he did, or do something that my brother did or Joe Gibbs did," Gruden said. "I'm just going to try to coach the way I know how, and the way I've done it in the past, and hopefully it'll be good enough."



Gruden

Ken Whisenhunt, Chargers: Picking up the pace

Like Gruden, Whisenhunt is considered an offensive guru.



Whisenhunt

With Kurt Warner as his quarterback, he took the usually downtrodden Arizona Cardinals to within 35 seconds of winning a Super Bowl.

What he likes best is a quick pace — everywhere.

His practices in Tennessee are run at a faster tempo than in previous years under former coach Mike Munchak. Players and coaches jog from drill to drill.

Whisenhunt said he hopes that's noticeable because the intent is to better mimic game speed and conditions.

"I think you have to create an intensity in practice because the game is so fast," he explains.

Veteran wide receiver Nate Washington, who was with the Pittsburgh Steelers when Whisenhunt was an assistant coach there, said the change in practice routine is impossible to miss.

"Before, things have happened in the past and we can't really sit here and try to compare the two or what's been happening before," he said. "But as of right now, I have seen a lot more intensity on this team, period."

Bill O'Brien, Texans: Team first philosophy

The excitement in Houston disappeared with a 14-game losing string that sank the

Texans from AFC South champs to worst in the league.

O'Brien, who could have written his own ticket at Penn State for years, instead chose to return to the NFL and take on a reclamation project.

Not as massive a challenge as the one he faced with the Nitrary Lions, perhaps. But certainly a hefty one for the former offensive assistant of the New England Patriots.

O'Brien delivered some not-so-subtle messages early on. Veterans don't have their names on their lockers anymore, only their numbers. A note on the inside of each locker said: "Always put the team first."

Rookies have a temporary cubicle set up in the middle of the locker room and won't get real ones until they make the team. That goes for everyone, even top choice Jadeveon Clowney, the No. 1 pick in the 2014 draft.

"Being a head coach is about making sure the team understands the philosophy of what you want to get done: hard work, being a good teammate, team first and all of those things that we talk about every day," O'Brien said.



O'Brien

MLB SCOREBOARD

American League									
East Division					Central Division				
W	L	Pct	GB		W	L	Pct	GB	
Baltimore	49	40	.551	3	Minnesota	49	40	.551	3
Blue Jays	48	43	.516	3 1/2	Seattle	48	43	.516	3 1/2
New York	45	43	.511	3 3/4	Los Angeles	45	43	.511	3 3/4
Tampa Bay	41	51	.446	5 1/2	Chicago	41	51	.446	5 1/2
Boston	39	50	.438	10	St. Louis	39	50	.438	10
Detroit	47	56	.455	—	San Francisco	47	56	.455	—
Kansas City	46	42	.523	1	San Diego	46	42	.523	1
Cleveland	43	45	.489	6 1/2	Colorado	43	45	.489	6 1/2
Los Angeles	42	47	.471	7 1/2	Arizona	42	47	.471	7 1/2
Minnesota	39	49	.443	10 1/2	Oakland	39	49	.443	10 1/2
National League									
East Division					Central Division				
W	L	Pct	GB		W	L	Pct	GB	
Atlanta	48	40	.551	3	St. Louis	48	40	.551	3
Washington	47	45	.545	1/2	Pittsburgh	47	45	.545	1/2
Miami	46	46	.500	1 1/2	Chicago	46	46	.500	1 1/2
New York	40	49	.449	9	Milwaukee	40	49	.449	9
Philadelphia	42	47	.471	11	San Francisco	42	47	.471	11
Los Angeles	38	49	.438	13 1/2	San Diego	38	49	.438	13 1/2
Oakland	36	52	.409	16 1/2	Colorado	36	52	.409	16 1/2
San Francisco	35	53	.398	17 1/2	Arizona	35	53	.398	17 1/2
San Diego	34	54	.388	18 1/2	Oakland	34	54	.388	18 1/2
Pittsburgh	47	42	.523	4 1/2	Los Angeles	47	42	.523	4 1/2
St. Louis	46	43	.512	5 1/2	San Francisco	46	43	.512	5 1/2
Chicago	38	49	.437	12 1/2	San Diego	38	49	.437	12 1/2

Mariners 2, Twins 0
Minnesota: Dooler 2b 4 0 1 b h b i; Escobar ss 4 0 1 b h b i; Plouffe 3b 4 0 0 c 2b 3 0 0 0; Morse 1b 4 0 0 c 2b 3 0 0 0; Pierrel 1b 4 0 0 c 2b 3 0 0 0; Pomeroy 1b 4

MLB

AL roundup

Relievers deliver victory for Angels

The Associated Press

ANAHEIM, Calif. — Jered Weaver's goal every time out is to pitch deep into the game and help ease the stress on an already taxed Los Angeles Angels bullpen. This time, he failed to make it past the second inning because of back stiffness.

But five relievers filled in for Weaver on Monday night, and Albert Pujols, Howie Kendrick and Erick Aybar each had run-scoring hits in the fifth inning to help the Angels' beat the Toronto Blue Jays 5-2.

Weaver departed after retiring all six batters he faced. The 31-year-old right-hander felt some discomfort while fielding a one-out comeback in the second by Adam Lind.

"It kind of jarred me a little bit, but I didn't feel anything the next at-bat by (Dioner) Navarro," Weaver said. "Then I came into the dugout and it tightened up really bad. I couldn't get it stretched out."

"We came in and did some treatment on it right away," Weaver added. "That freed it up, so it feels about 80 percent better than when I came out. So we'll stay on top of it, and hopefully it won't linger too long."

The winning pitcher was Matt Shoemaker (7-2), who made 61 pitches in his emergency stint while allowing two runs and five hits through 3½ innings.

Yankees 5, Indians 3: Shane Greene allowed two runs in six innings for his first MLB win and All-Star Dellin Betances earned his first career save to help visiting New York beat Cleveland.

Greene (1-0) didn't allow a hit until former Yankee Nick Swisher's two-out homer in the fifth. The 25-year-old right-hander was pressed into service after scheduled starter Vidal Nuno was traded to Arizona for right-hander Brandon McCarthy on Sunday.



CHRIS CARLSON/AP

The Los Angeles Angels' Kole Calhoun, right, scores past Toronto catcher Dioner Navarro during Monday's game in Anaheim, Calif. Calhoun scored on a sacrifice fly by Josh Hamilton.

White Sox 4, Red Sox 0: Scott Carroll pitched 6½ innings of one-hit ball, and Dayan Viciedo hit a three-run homer to lead visiting Chicago.

Making the eighth — and best — start of his career, Carroll (3-5) walked two and struck out five while shutting down the defending World Series champions. Adam Dunn hit a solo homer in the second inning and doubled and scored on Viciedo's home run in the fourth.

Royals 6, Rays 0: Kansas City's James Shields sparked in his return to Tropicana Field, limiting Tampa Bay to three hits and striking out 10 over seven innings.

Shields (9-4) spent the first seven seasons of his career with the Rays before being dealt to the Royals in December 2012 as part of a seven-player trade in which Kansas City sent 2013 AL rookie of the year Wil Myers and another top young prospect, Jake Odorizzi (4-8), to Tampa Bay.

Astros 12, Rangers 7: Jon Singleton homered among three hits and drove in four runs, Marwin Gonzalez had a bases-loaded triple and visiting Houston snapped a seven-game skid.

Gonzalez's triple followed five consecutive singles in a six-run second inning, and Singleton's towering flyball landed two rows above the Texas bullpen in right-center for a three-run shot and a 9-2 lead in the fourth.

Mariners 2, Twins 0: Hisashi Iwakuma struck out a season-high 10 in seven strong innings, Mike Zunino and Michael Saunders hit solo home runs, and host Seattle beat Minnesota.

Iwakuma (7-4) had not allowed an earned run to the Twins in five career starts, which spans 33½ innings. After allowing a combined 10 runs in two consecutive starts to close out June, Iwakuma has given up just one in his two outings in July.



TOM GANNAP/AP

Pittsburgh second baseman Neil Walker, right, tumbles over St. Louis' Matt Carpenter after tagging him out and throwing it first for a double play during the sixth inning of Monday's game in St. Louis.

NL roundup

Adams' ninth-inning HR lifts Cards over Pirates

The Associated Press

ST. LOUIS — After beating the team he grew up rooting for with his first career game-winning hit, Matt Adams couldn't resist a celebratory fist pump just a few steps out of the batter's box.

"This is unbelievable," Adams said after his two-run home run in the bottom of the ninth inning gave the St. Louis Cardinals a 2-0 victory over the Pittsburgh Pirates on Monday night in the opener of a four-game series with the NL Central rival they beat in the division series last fall. "I don't even know what to say."

Adams is from Slippery Rock, Pa., and starred at Slippery Rock College, but the Pirates never showed any interest. He joked that the only people in western Pennsylvania that were happy were "probably a handful of family members."

"I don't think I touched the dirt the whole way around (the bases)," Adams said.

Matt Carpenter drew his third walk leading off the ninth and Matt Holliday flied out before Adams hit his 10th homer on an 0-1 hanging breaking ball from Justin Wilson (2-1). It was the Cardinals' first game-winning homer since Skip Schumaker connected against the Kansas City Royals on June 19, 2011.

"As soon as I made contact I knew it was gone," Adams said. "It felt good off the bat."

Adams entered the game batting just .190 against lefties but has been the Cardinals' top threat lately with six hits the last two games. He foiled the Pirates' shift in the first, lining an opposite field double to left.

Mets 4, Braves 3 (11): Ruben Tejada singled home the winning run with two outs in the 11th inning after Curtis Granderson hit a tying homer in the eighth as host New York beat Atlanta.

David Wright went deep early, Travis d'Arnaud had an RBI double and Daisuke Matsuzaka pitched seven shutout innings for the Mets, who have won three of four.

Reds 9, Cubs 3: Jay Bruce played first base for the first time since high school and committed an error that let a run in, but later homered to help host Cincinnati rally for the win in the opener of a five-game series.

Billy Hamilton drove in a career-high four runs with a single and a bases-loaded triple.

The Reds have won 11 of their last 16 games despite getting little production from injured first baseman Joey Votto.

Phillies 3, Brewers 2: Chase Utley hit a two-run homer, and Cole Hamels allowed one earned run over 6½ innings for his first victory in a month as visiting Philadelphia edged Milwaukee.

Hamels (3-5) allowed two runs and seven hits, striking out seven and walking two for his first victory since June 6 — a span of six starts. Jonathan Papelbon pitched a perfect ninth for his 20th save in 23 chances.

Diamondbacks 9, Marlins 1: David Peralta drove in three runs and Miguel Montero knocked in two to lead host Arizona.

The Diamondbacks jumped on Tim Lincecum (6-7) early, scoring five runs in the second inning and three more in the fourth.

Peralta extended his hitting streak to eight games and the Diamondbacks had seven extra base hits to help Chase Anderson (6-4) end a four-game losing streak.

Padres 6, Rockies 1: Ian Kennedy pitched seven sharp innings, Rene Rivera hit a tiebreaking RBI double in the sixth and San Diego beat Colorado.

Chase Headley added four hits for the Padres, including a two-run triple in the seventh inning to break open a close game.

Kennedy (7-9) seemed to gain strength the deeper he got into the game, striking out five of the last six batters he faced before wind, rain and lightning forced the delay heading into the eighth inning. Kevin Quackenbush stepped in for Kennedy when play resumed.

MLB

Athletics shut out Giants

By ANTONIO GONZALEZ
The Associated Press

OAKLAND, Calif. — The San Francisco Giants have dominated the baseball headlines in the Bay Area since winning the World Series in 2010 and 2012. The Oakland Athletics have swiped most of the attention back after taking over the best record in the majors this summer.

And when the two teams met for the first time this season, both continued to head in opposite directions.

Jesse Chavez matched a career high with nine strikeouts in six innings, and three relievers pitched scoreless ball to lead the A's past the Giants 5-0 on Monday night for their fifth straight win.

"It's exciting to be part of the Oakland Athletics right now," said third baseman Josh Donaldson, one of six A's players named to the All-Star team.

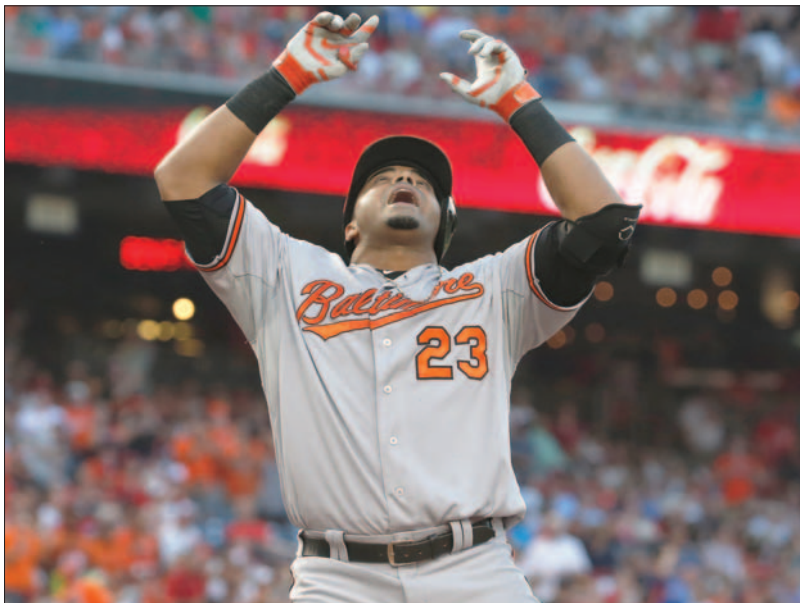
The A's have been among baseball's best and most consistent clubs all season. Then they made a surprising trade to get right-handers Jeff Samardzija and Jason Hammel from the Chicago Cubs on Friday for three minor leaguers, including top prospect Addison Russell.

Oakland also leads the majors with its All-Star selections, the club's most since 1975.

The banged-up Giants, on the other hand, had lost 18 of 23 to fall out of first place in the NL West — where they once held a 9½-game lead over the Dodgers.

Alberto Callaspo hit a two-run double, and three others drove in a run to power the A's in front of an announced sellout crowd of 36,067 festive fans at the Coliseum.

Chavez (7-5) allowed four hits and two walks to help extend the A's record to a major-league best 56-33. Fernando Abad, Dan Otero and Ryan Cook shut down San Francisco the final three innings.



ALEX BRANDON/AP

Baltimore's Nelson Cruz celebrates his two-run homer during the fourth inning of Monday's road game against Washington.

Orioles come alive in 11th

Davis' homer helps Baltimore score six runs, pull away from Washington

By DAVID GINSBURG
The Associated Press

WASHINGTON — Every now and then, Chris Davis breaks free from his agonizing season to send out a reminder of just how dangerous he can be at the plate.

Davis interrupted a lengthy slump with a tiebreaking homer in the 11th inning, part of a six-run uprising that carried the Baltimore Orioles past the Washington Nationals 8-2 on Monday night.

Manny Machado had a career-high five hits, including a homer in the 11th, and Nelson Cruz hit his 28th home run to help the AL East-leading Orioles earn their seventh win in eight games.

Anthony Rendon homered for the Nationals, who lost for only the second time in nine games.

After Cruz led off the 11th with a broken-bat single off Craig Stammen (0-4), Davis worked the count full before launching a drive into the center-field seats to end a 2-for-38 funk that had dropped his batting average to .198.

"When we stopped them the inning before, I knew the next inning I was coming up," Davis said. "And with Nelson being as hot as he is, I just kind of thought, 'This is my chance to redeem myself.' I've been doing everything I can. I want to be the player I know I can be for these guys. I know it will be huge for this team if I can step up and start swinging a little bit. So it

was definitely good to come through right there."

It was his 14th home run of the season, the first since a game-winning, pinch-hit shot against the Chicago White Sox on June 23. Davis led the majors with 53 homers last year.

"Really happy for Chris," Orioles manager Buck Showalter said. "He's been beating himself up pretty good. Anybody out there doesn't have to do it because he's doing it enough on his own. I think everybody on the club really felt good for him, to have that big knock there."

No one felt better than Davis himself.

"Nobody likes to struggle, but at the same time I try to keep a positive mind frame," he said. "If you sit there and dwell on how bad you are scuffling it's going to be hard to get out of it."

J.J. Hardy followed with a solo shot, Nick Markakis chased Stammen with an RBI double and Machado added a two-run drive off Aaron Barrett.

"I really did not think he would be able to hit that pitch out," Stammen said of the pitch to Davis. "He was right on it and he was looking for it. It was a little bit higher than I wanted."

T.J. MacFarland (2-2) worked two scoreless innings for the win.

The first seven innings featured a pitching duel between Baltimore's Chris Tillman and Washington's Stephen Strasburg, each of whom had a solid outing interrupt-



ALEX BRANDON/AP

Washington's Denard Span flips his bat after striking out during the 10th inning.

ed by a two-run homer.

Tillman gave up two runs on five hits, striking out six and walking one.

Strasburg struck out nine and allowed two runs on four hits, three by Machado. The nine strikeouts were his most in six starts since June 4.



BEN MARGOT/AP

Oakland's Alberto Callaspo watches his two-run double off San Francisco pitcher Juan Gutierrez during the sixth inning of Monday's game in Oakland, Calif.

SPORTS



Return of the King?

Improved relationship with Cavs' owner could land James in Cleveland again | Page 26

NFL

Different paths, same goal

By BARRY WILNER
The Associated Press

From the smooth, almost laid-back approaches of Lovie Smith and Jim Caldwell to the fiery passion of Mike Zimmer, new NFL coaches are reshaping the environments of their teams.

Some have bigger chores than others. Bringing in a new coaching staff usually means the previous one did too much losing. That's true times seven this year as Smith takes over at Tampa Bay, Caldwell in Detroit, Zimmer in Minnesota, Ken Whisenhunt in Tennessee, Bill O'Brien in Houston, Jay Gruden in Washington and Mike Pettine in Cleveland.



Lovie Smith, Buccaneers: Staying low-key

Another necessary skill is communication.

New coaches use divergent styles to reshape franchises



Inside:

■ NFL concussion suit resolution receives preliminary approval from US District judge, Page 28

Smith, who was 84-66 in nine seasons in Chicago, yet was canned after 2012, is a master at that. After the roughness of Greg Schiano's reign in Tampa, Smith's low-key style easily won over the players.

Not that Smith doesn't know how and when to be stern; he learned under Tony Dungy, a master communicator.

"It's been a while, I can honestly say, since you've seen guys smile this much and have this much fun," said DT Gerald McCoy, among the Bucs' best players.

"It's just a completely different feel around the building."



Jim Caldwell, Lions: Remaining calm

Caldwell also comes from the Dungy coaching tree, and he might still be the man in Indianapolis had Peyton Manning not missed 2011 after neck surgery. The Lions needed a steadying influence as head coach after the often unpredictable

Jim Schwartz regime.

To some, Caldwell was a surprise choice. To others, he is the anti-Schwartz and will bring a calm steadiness to Detroit — along with more discipline for a team that sometimes stepped beyond the bounds of NFL protocol in its on-field behavior.

Caldwell has joked about his reputation for remaining even-keeled.

"There's no need for a whole lot of cussing, screaming, yelling and all that kind of stuff," Caldwell said. "It's a mini-quiz out here. I never had any of my professors yelling in my ear when I was sitting at the desk filling out those multiple-choice questions."



Mike Pettine, Browns: Being blunt

Pettine might have the biggest challenge because he takes over a perennial loser: Cleveland last made the playoffs in 2002. There's been discord surrounding the franchise ever since Jimmy Haslam bought it in 2012, and he's already on his third head coach.

The son of a highly successful high school coach, Pettine is bright, self-confident and media savvy, seemingly lacking the suspicious nature of so many NFL head coaches.

He doesn't pull punches, which is critical in engineering a cultural change.

SEE PATHS ON PAGE 28

Two coaches from the Tony Dungy coaching tree — Lovie Smith of the Tampa Bay Buccaneers, left, and Jim Caldwell of the Detroit Lions — are winning over their players with a low-key approach.

JULIAN H. GONZALEZ,
DETROIT FREE PRESS/MCT

CHRIS O'MEARA/AP



Top dribblers meet in World Cup semis | Page 25

